

Golan Syrians yearn for peace and their land

HADHAR, Golan Heights (R) — Hailah Abu-Saleh fell sick for a week when Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, who opposes the principle of returning occupied Arab lands in exchange for peace, was elected prime minister on May 29.

"For me, his election meant that even the glimpse of hope for peace which means that I will reunite with my family had gone," the 61-year-old woman told Reuters at her husband's house in Hadhar town on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights.

Sitting in a room full of family pictures, Ms. Abu-Saleh, from Majdal Shams town, tearfully told how she married a man in Hadhar just a five-minute drive away and was separated from her family when Israel occupied the Golan 29 years ago.

"I was unable even to attend the funerals of my father and my mother... my sister got very ill and I was unable to see her... I was unable to attend weddings of my relatives..."

"I was forced to stay away from all sad and happy occasions because of the

Israeli occupation. I want peace because this will allow me reunite with my family. I still have great hopes that our President Hafez Al Assad will be able to make peace and return all our occupied lands from the Israelis," she added.

The fate of the beautiful windswept plateau that Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war is at the core of sporadic peace negotiations that opened between Israel and Syria in 1991. The last round was held in February near Washington.

Mr. Netanyahu has refused Syria's demands for full withdrawal from the fertile 1,158 square kilometres area stretching up to Mount Hermon, about 2,200 metres above sea level and down to the Sea of Galilee 212 metres below sea level.

Indeed, all Israeli governments have regarded the Heights — which tower over northern Israel and from which Syrian gunners have periodically shelled the Jewish state — as important. The previous Israeli government of Shimon Peres, while ready to compromise on the plateau, had demanded stringent security

guarantees that Damascus rejected.

Additionally, water sources in the Golan provide an estimated 30 per cent of Israel's needs.

Mufeed Badrieh, public relations manager in Quneitra, said peace could never be made unless Israel returned all the land.

Syria got back Quneitra and other parts of the Golan under 1974 U.S.-brokered accord following the 1973 Middle East war.

"The Golan is a strategic area linking Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. It is the second best fertile area in Syria and it is a key water-gathering region. That is why Israel occupied it," Mr. Badrieh said. "When Israel occupied the Golan, it drove out over 153,000 citizens from their homes in 244 towns and villages. Many of those people, now living in four Syrian cities, are still keeping keys to their homes and they are sure they will return one day," he added.

He said the number of refugees had risen to over 400,000.

"Israel says it wants the Golan to meet its water needs while we, owners of the land, badly need water.

Our land must be returned in full to us if Israel wants peace," Mr. Badrieh said.

"Mr. Badrieh served as guide during a visit to a crossing point a few metres from Israeli-held areas and explained how Syrian brides and students move back and forth.

He said many women in full wedding regalia walk past minefields and barbed wire into Israeli-occupied areas to marry bridegrooms they choose from videotapes. Marriages, arranged through the International Committee of the Red Cross, are formalised at a United Nations buffer zone.

In 'Ain Al Teeneh village overlooking Majdal Shams, where the so-called "shouting hill" is located, the graves of two brothers lie opposite each other on either side of the border.

When Kamal Kanj Abu Saleh died in Majdal Shams in 1987, he asked to be buried opposite 'Ain Al Teeneh, which is under Syrian control. His brother, a major-general in the Syrian army, attended the funeral from the Syrian side and made a wish: that he be buried opposite his brother when he died, residents said.

His wish was granted when he was killed in a car crash several months later, they said.

His marble tomb is now the only feature in a square on top of the hill, where relatives and friends from both sides shout greetings to each other using loudspeakers. Syria's conflict with Israel dates back to November 1947, when Damascus rejected a U.N. partition plan envisaging Jewish and Arab states side-by-side.

After the June 1967 war, the United Nations adopted Security Council Resolution 242 calling for an Israeli pullback. Syria, joined by Egypt and other Arab states, went to war with Israel again in October 1973. Syrians penetrated deep into the Golan before being pushed back.

In May 1974 Syria and Israel agreed through the mediation of U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to disengage. A U.N. observer force was positioned in a buffer zone from then on.

Israel's parliament passed a law in December 1981 imposing Israeli law on the Golan Heights, but the United Nations considered the law null and void.



ANTI-U.S. PROTEST: Iraqi woman, carrying placards and a huge portrait of President Saddam Hussein, take part in a street demonstration against the U.S. cruise missile strike on Iraqi installations in southern Iraq on Tuesday (see page one) (Reuters photo).

Text of statement by Clinton on Iraq

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton on Tuesday announced a missile strike was carried out against Iraq in retaliation for an Iraqi offensive in the north part of the country. Here is the statement:

"Good morning.

"Three days ago, despite clear warnings from the United States and the international community, Iraqi forces attacked and seized the Kurdish control city of Erbil in northern Iraq.

"The limited withdrawals announced by Iraq do not change the reality. (Iraqi President Saddam) Hussein's army today controls Arbil, and Iraqi units remain deployed for further attacks.

"These acts demand a strong response, and they have received one.

"Earlier today, I ordered American forces to strike Iraq. Our missiles sent the following message to Hussein: When you abuse your own people or threaten your neighbours, you must pay a price.

"It appears that one Kurdish group which in the past opposed Saddam now has decided to cooperate with him, but that cannot justify unleashing the Iraqi army against the civilian population of Erbil.

"Repeatedly over the past weeks and months, we have worked to secure a lasting ceasefire between the Kurdish factions. The Iraqi attack adds fuel to the factional fire and threatens to spark instability throughout the region.

"Our objectives are limited, but clear: to make Saddam pay a price for the latest act of brutality, reducing his ability to threaten his neighbours and America's interests.

"First, we are extending the no-fly zone in southern Iraq. This will deny Saddam control of Iraqi airspace from the Kuwaiti border to the southern suburbs of Baghdad, and significantly restrict Iraq's ability to conduct offensive operations in the region.

"Second, to protect the safety of our aircraft enforcing this no-fly zone, our

cruise missiles struck Saddam's air defence capabilities in southern Iraq.

"The United States was a co-sponsor of the United Nations Security Resolution 986, which allows Iraq to sell amounts of oil to purchase food and medicine for its people, including the Kurds. Erbil, the city seized by the Iraqis, is a key distribution centre for this aid.

"Until we are sure these humanitarian supplies can actually get to those who need them, the plan cannot go forward, and the Iraqi government will be denied the new resources it has been expecting.

"Hussein's objectives may change, but his methods are always the same — violence and aggression, against the Kurds, against other ethnic minorities, against Iraq's neighbours.

"Our answer to that recklessness must be strong and immediate. As President Bush demonstrated in Operation Desert Storm, as we showed two years ago when Iraq amassed its forces on Kuwait's border, and as we showed again today, we must make it clear that reckless acts have consequences, or those acts will increase.

"We must reduce Iraq's ability to strike out at its neighbours, and we must increase America's ability to contain Iraq over the long run. The steps we have taken today will further all those objectives.

"Time and again, Hussein has made clear his disdain for civilised behaviour. He brutalised his own people, attacked his neighbours, supported terrorism and sought to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

"Our policy is equally clear. When our interest and the security of our friends and allies is threatened, we will act with force if necessary. That is what we did this morning in Iraq.

"I know the thoughts and prayers of all Americans are with our military men and women who are conducting this mission. God bless them and the nation they are serving."

Civilian judges removed from State Security Court

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti has announced the termination of regulations issued on Dec. 28, 1995 by which four civilian judges were appointed to the State Security Court.

The four were judges Mohammad Faleh Al Sharaa, Jalal Mohammad Issa, Mohammad Saeed Hamzeh Shweideh and Dr. Saeed Mohammad Saeed Halajneh.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Kabariti said that he took the decision upon recommendations from Minister of Justice Abdul Karim Al Dughni and in accordance with the authority vested in him as prime minister and in conformity

with article two of the State Security Court law and its amendments.

The government had appointed the four civilian judges to the State Security Court in order to try Laith Shbeilat for slandering His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Shbeilat, a former parliament member and president of the Jordanian Engineers Association, was sentenced by the court to a three-year term in prison this year.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that the State Security Court, which is normally presided over by a military judge, is now expected to appoint military judges to replace the civilian magistrates.

1 killed in Algerian bombing

ALGIERS (AFP) — One person was killed and 10 people were wounded Tuesday in a bomb attack on a hotel in central Algiers, state radio reported.

The radio said the blast was caused by a car bomb.

The blast woke people from their sleep at around 5:45 a.m. (0445 GMT). The hotel d'Angleterre was completely

wrecked and buildings in the immediate vicinity had their windows blown out, including the nearby national assembly.

Some of the injured were evacuated on stretchers by emergency services who arrived immediately on the scene, an AFP reporter saw.

There have been a wave of

attacks on public places, particularly cafes and restaurants, which have claimed at least 30 lives since mid-July. Last Friday, seven people were killed and 20 wounded by a bomb in a restaurant at Staoueli, a popular resort on the west coast, according to media reports.

The attacks were believed to be the work of extremists who have been waging a guerrilla war against the military-backed government, which cancelled the second round of elections that the since outlawed Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win in January 1992. At least 50,000 people have since died in the conflict according to Western estimates.

Israel says army seizing weapons

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army has given Jewish settlers in the occupied territories until mid-September to renew permits allowing them to carry weapons, military officials said Tuesday.

Colonel Yizhak Aviram, the official in charge of the arms control operation, said settlers were instructed to turn their weapons in to army posts and to reapply for gun permits. The new permits are only granted if the applicant has no police record and can submit a medical certificate showing they are in good physical and mental health, he said.

So far 70 per cent of armed settlers have gone through the procedure and the rest must do so by Sept. 15, he said.

Those who miss the deadline, "will have their weapons seized by the army," he said.

Some 150,000 Israelis live in settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Israeli authorities have traditionally asked few questions when they ask for weapons, including military assault rifles, for self-defence against possible attack by Palestinians.

The army official provided no figures on the number of weapons held by settlers but Israeli Radio said they numbered in the hundreds.

The decision to impose tighter restrictions on gun licences was taken after a Jewish settler, Baruch Goldstein, massacred at least 30 Palestinian worshippers in a Hebron mosque in 1994.

Leading rights activist is arrested in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — A leading Turkish human rights activist who recently met with separatist Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq was arrested overnight by police, legal and human rights officials said Tuesday.

"Akin Birdal, chairman of the Human Rights Association, was arrested last night at his home in Ankara," Mr. Birdal's deputy Husnu Ondul told AFP.

Ankara's state security court prosecutor Nuh Mete Yuksek, who confirmed Mr. Birdal was under custody, said an arrest warrant had also been issued for another activist, Ihsan Arslan, deputy chairman of Mazlum Der, a religious-oriented human rights group.

Mr. Birdal and Mr. Arslan were in a team led by Islamist Deputy Fethullah Erbas, who travelled to northern Iraq last week to meet local authorities from the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) for the expected release of seven captive Turkish soldiers.

However, the mission failed as the PKK refused to free the soldiers last Wednesday and the three men returned to Turkey empty-handed.

But television footage showing the three men talking with rebels under PKK flags and attending a "military ceremony" in a rebel camp 30 kilometres south of the Turkish border caused a public uproar in Turkey.

Legal sources said Mr. Birdal and Mr. Arslan could be charged with "having ties with a separatist terrorist organisation" and tried

by the state security court which deals with crimes against the state.

The Ankara state security court has also launched an investigation against Mr. Erbas for the group's trip into northern Iraq, the Istanbul-based left-wing daily Cumhuriyet said Tuesday.

Mr. Erbas, as deputy in the ruling party of Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, cannot be arrested as he has parliamentary immunity.

Turkey's mainstream parties have already lambasted Mr. Erbas and the two human rights activists for negotiating the release of the soldiers with the PKK.

"Erbas, who is a member of the Turkish parliament, has illegally held talks with separatist terrorists. He should be punished for that," former Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, also leader of the conservative main opposition Motherland Party, told reporters last Friday.

Mr. Erbas said his group's initiative was a private and humanitarian one and that it should not be linked to the government or the ruling Welfare Party.

Turkey's successive governments have ruled out talks with the PKK, which has been waging a separatist war in southeastern Turkey since 1984. More than 22,000 people have been killed in fighting since then.

The PKK has been using bases in northern Iraq in its fight for independence. The group captured the seven soldiers during fighting in southeast Turkey last year.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

- 15:05Ins — The Happy Professor
- 15:20Captain Planet
- 15:45Hot Shots (Sports)
- 16:15Bob Morrison Show
- 16:30Comedy — ALF
- 17:00News Flash
- 17:02Sciences Cartoon
- 17:15La Vie Devant Moi
- 17:30Game Show — Qui Est Qui
- 18:00Venus — Michel Sarlou
- 19:00Le Journal
- 19:15Magazine — Ushuaia
- 19:30News Headlines
- 19:35Blossom
- 20:00Documentary — Man Alive
- 20:30Encounter
- 20:45Varieties
- 21:10Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 22:00News in English
- 22:20Mission Impossible
- 23:15Cinema Beach
- 23:59My Two Wives

PRAYER TIMES

- 04:47Fajr
- 06:07Sunrise — Duha
- 12:35Dhuhr
- 16:11Asr
- 19:04Maghreb
- 20:24Isha

CHURCHES

- St. Mary of Nazareth Church
- Sweilheh, Tel. 810740
- Assemblies of God Church

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

- Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
- De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
- Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
- Anglican Church Tel. 652826
- Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
- Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
- St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
- Amman International Church Tel. 652526
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
- German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
- The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
- Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
- The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
- English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- NIGHT DUTY
- AMMAN: Dr. Osama Al Hussein 847289
- Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 827195
- Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
- Dr. Afif Shukri 898863
- Ferdows pharmacy 778336
- Al Asena pharmacy 637055
- Al Salam pharmacy 636730
- Yacoub pharmacy 644945
- Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
- Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
- Najib pharmacy 847632
- IRBID: Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammeh 250080
- Al Quds pharmacy 636381
- ZARQA: Dr. Rafiq Atallah 904424
- Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

- Food Control Centre 637111
- Civil Defence Dept. 661111
- Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
- Civil Defence Emergency 199
- Rescue Police 192 621111
- 637777
- Fire Brigade 617101
- Blood Bank 775121
- Highway Police 843402
- Traffic Police 896390
- Public Security Department 630321
- Hotel Complaints 605800
- Price Complaints 661176
- Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
- Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
- Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
- Overseas Calls 010230
- Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
- Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
- Jordan Television 773111
- Radio Jordan 774111
- Water Authority 680100
- Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
- Electric Power Company 636381
- RJ Flight Information 08-53200
- Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

- AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
- Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
- Akileh Maternity 64241/2
- Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
- Mallhas, J. Amman 636140
- Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
- Shmeisani Hospital 669131
- University Hospital 345845
- Al-Muasher Hospital 667279
- The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
- Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
- Al-Bashir 775111/26
- Army, Marka 891611/15
- Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
- Amal Hospital 674155
- The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
- ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)683323
- Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
- Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
- Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
- IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital 636381
- Greek Catholic Hospital 021272275
- Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 021247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

- QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT
- ARRIVALS
- Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
- 06:35Beirut (RJ)
- 09:30Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
- 12:10Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
- 12:15Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
- 13:00Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
- 13:10Paris (RJ)
- 13:15Cairo (RJ)
- 14:05London (RJ)
- 14:55Madrid (RJ)
- 21:45Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
- 22:20Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
- 22:30Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
- 01:30Beirut, Larnaca (RJ)
- Other Flights
- 08:45Beirut (ME)
- 09:15London (BA)
- 10:15Cairo (MS)
- 14:30Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain, Muscat (GF)
- 15:30Riyadh (SV)
- 15:45Munich (YP)
- 17:00Rome (AZ)
- 17:30Dubai (EK)
- 20:45Kuwait (KL)
- 21:20Aden (IY)
- 23:10Tel Aviv (LY)
- 01:55Bucharest (RO)
- 04:00Amsterdam (KL)
- Royal Wings (RW) Flights
- 10:00Aqaba (Marka Airport (RW))
- 20:30Aqaba (Marka Airport proceeding to QAIA) (RW)
- HUJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
- Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
- Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
- Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
- Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

- Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
- Apple.....700/500
- Banana.....600/600
- Banana (mukhammar).....520/520
- Banana (imported).....820/600
- Carrot.....250/230
- Cauliflower.....580/30
- Cucumber (large).....240/140
- Cucumber (small).....380/250
- Eggplant.....240/150
- Fig.....340/240
- Garlic.....650/400
- Grapes.....420/300
- Lemon.....420/300
- Marrow (large).....250/150
- Marrow (small).....400/300
- Mulukhiyah.....110/70
- Onion (dry).....160/90
- Okra.....1000/700
- Pea.....650/450
- Pepper (hot).....320/240
- Pepper (sweet).....380/340
- Plum.....600/400
- Pomegranate.....380/250
- Potato.....250/150
- String Bean.....1000/900
- Sweet melon.....420/300
- Tomato.....200/120
- Water melon.....220/150

THEATRICAL

- The Estranged
- Performing the work
- at Darat Al Fu

CARDNE continues to aid rural areas

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The rallying cry of the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East (CARDNE) participants Tuesday emphasised the importance of a governmental role in rural areas while saying that at the same time the government cannot stand alone and must be buttressed by non-governmental organisations.

This was the main point of a three-day regional seminar organised by CARDNE and entitled "Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations: Partners in Rural Development."

During the closing session of the seminar, specialists and decision-makers of six countries in the region drew several recommendations to improve rural development in the area.

One of which emphasised the continuing need to specify the standards and directions that will govern rural development in the near future.

It added that a balance between social and economic development is essential so that the development procedures may be balanced.

NGOs, according to the recommendations, must play a greater role in the rural development process and be furnished with

money and skilled personnel "since it has practical field experience which will help implement development requirements."

Rural development process in any area of the region must be studied and evaluated compared to other areas to determine social developments and to find solutions to problems, if and when they occur, according to the recommendations.

Specialists and decision makers from governmental organisations and NGOs of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, Syria and Tunisia presented joint national papers.

In addition, representatives from the Arab Organisation for agricultural

Development (AOAD), the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) also submitted reports.

The objective of the seminar was to review cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organisations in the field of rural development, evaluating communication and means of activation thereof in order to reach a mechanism for effective partnership in the future, and to define any obstacles to this goal that they might be overcome in order to achieve more effective rural development in line with human needs.

Two Amman municipality employees face bribery charges

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two employees of the Greater Amman Municipality have been subpoenaed on charges of bribery in the altering of the status of a plot of municipal-owned land in favour of a private individual, legal sources said Tuesday.

It was the first reported case of corruption at the municipality after the then-governor of Amman, Obaidat, dismissed about 50 municipal employees in 1985 after suspicions were raised that they were abusing their office for personal gain. Some of the dismissed employees were later convicted of corruption.

In the latest case, a municipal engineer and a surveyor are accused of deliberately altering the legal status of a plot of land which was acquired by the municipality in 1975 to build a park in the Abdoun area of Amman.

According to reports in

the local press, which has nicknamed the affair "the Abdoun Garden Case," the alterations made to relevant municipal documents in 1995 designated the plot of land as belonging to an individual and was given the status of "Class A Residential Area."

The land was originally slated by the municipality to build a garden, but the project was apparently shelved, with little attention given to the issue since then.

The documents, handled by the planning department of the municipal council, were also endorsed by relevant officials who apparently accepted the status of the land as genuine since it was so certified by the engineer and surveyor.

The two municipal employees are alleged to have accepted a bribe of more than JD 250,000 in return for the "service" they rendered.

The sources stated that the cost of land in the

Abdoun area was the highest in Amman, rising up to JD 400,000 per dunum in some of the "prime areas" of the district often called the millionaires' playground.

According to Mayor Mahmoud Abbadi, allegations that there was something amiss in the affair were brought to his attention some time this year and he referred the matter to the intelligence department, which duly investigated and resolved that corruption was, indeed, a factor.

It was not immediately known whether the individual who paid the bribe would also be prosecuted.

Other reports appearing in the local press said that corruption cases were also unveiled in the Water Authority of Jordan as well as the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Details were not available, but at least 20 people, most of them civil servants, are believed to be implicated in

the cases.

The government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti has made the fight against corruption a priority issue.

According to officials, 63 cases of alleged corruption and bribery were sent to receive due process before July 31.

The cases involved forgery of official documents among other charges.

The officials said investigations were continuing into "dozens" of other cases and that all those suspected would be tried if corruption and bribery are established in the cases.

A special committee chaired by a senior officer from the General Intelligence Department is in charge of all investigations into cases of suspected bribery and corruption.

A court has also been set up to try the cases.

'Udwan Mills' retrial begins

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a courtroom packed with law enforcers, the Amman Criminal Court Tuesday commenced the retrial of nine defendants, five of them sentenced to death last year, after the Court of Cassation reviewed the case in April.

The nine were part of a group of 12 people, known as "Udwan Mills," who were found guilty of committing five murders, several armed robberies, thefts, attempted murder, kidnapping and fraud, by the Criminal Court.

During a five-minute court session, Prosecutor General Ali Abu Hajileh presented a written statement calling for the indictment of all nine defendants.

Of the accused, seven are male and two are female.

The Court of Cassation, which has been reviewing the case since June of 1995, ruled that the Criminal Court cannot base its sentencing on confessions alone since all the defendants claimed they were interrogated by the authorities under duress.

The three defence attorneys for the nine accused filed an appeal asking the Criminal Court tribunal to follow the higher court's new rulings.

In its 52-page revision, the Court of Cassation stated that the Criminal Court relied only on the defendants' confessions and neglected to study any material evidences.

On June 30, 1995, the Criminal Court sentenced five of the 12 defendants to death.

Three others, including the two women, received prison sentences of 10 to 15 years for armed robbery.

The remaining three were acquitted of charges of theft by the same court.

During the past three years, the Criminal Court questioned 160 witnesses in one of the most serious and most protracted cases involving organised gangs ever reported in the Kingdom.

The group was nicknamed "Udwan Mills" because they were captured in a police raid in the Udwan Mills village near Sukhneh.

They first stood trial at the State Security Court in January 1993, but were transferred to the Criminal Court as the case fell within its jurisdiction.

The Criminal Court tribunal, presided over by Judge Abdul Rahman Tawfiq and including Judges Miftah Mubeidin and Ismael Hmouz, has postponed the case until Sept. 16.

'Work-force comprises 25% of population'

AMMAN (Petra) — The total workforce in Jordan has now reached 1,029,000, comprising 25 per cent of the population, and the figure is expected to rise to 1,255,000 by the year 2000, according to Abdullah Ulayan, director of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Mr. Ulayan Tuesday said that 81.2 per cent of the total work force is, indeed, active and therefore 18.8 per cent have claimed unemployed status.

In a lecture he delivered at the Wadi Al Araba Charitable Society in Amman, Mr. Ulayan has estimated that the largest sector of the unemployed by the end of the century will be among the highly educated and that only through increasing investments and achieving economic growth will unemployment be curtailed.

He said that Jordan's production capacity remains limited

generally, and that it is unlikely to be able to absorb an increase in the workforce in four years time.

Mr. Ulayan, whose office is responsible for processing job applications by those interested in working in the public sector, said that the number of government employees now stands at 144,000 of whom 65,000 are employed by the Ministry of Education mainly as teachers and 21,000 are employed by the Ministry of Health and affiliated hospitals and health centres.

The remainder work for various other government departments, said Ulayan, who stated that 39 per cent of civil servants and assorted government employees work in the capital and 16 per cent in the northern Irbid Governorate.

The Wadi Al Araba Charitable Society was established in 1975.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cerebral Palsy Foundation opens drive

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) Oct. 1 will organise a fund-raising campaign in various parts of the country to collect contributions to support treatment of cerebral palsy in children. A CPF statement Tuesday said that children will be taking part in collecting contributions, distributing leaflets and putting up posters to inform the public about the illness, methods of protection, and the importance of early diagnosis. Her Majesty Queen Noor is the Honorary President of the CPF, which was established in 1977 and the foundation has offered rehabilitation treatment to 9,343 children through its centres in various locations of the Kingdom.

Aqaba approves new construction

AQABA (Petra) — The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) board has approved the establishment of four five-star hotels in Aqaba with an overall projected capacity of 250 rooms. An ARA statement said that the hotels will be set up on the south coast and be responsible for annual rent for the land on which the hotels are slated to be constructed. The ARA board has also given its consent to the creation of three restaurants, sundry cafes and swimming pools in the same areas against annual rent to be paid to ARA. The statement said that ARA officials and representatives of the concerned companies are in the process of concluding contracts for these installations on which work will begin within one year from the date of the finalisation of the agreements, which stipulate a 39 month time period for the termination of the projects.

282 engineers join association

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 282 engineers Tuesday formally joined the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA), taking the oath before the JEA board at a ceremony held at the Professional Associations Complex. Under JEA law no engineer can practise the profession without joining the association.

Special designs for the Arab World

RAMTHA (Petra) — Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in cooperation with the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST) will Sunday organise a workshop on engineering designs and maintenance of buildings in the Arab World. According to a university spokesman, delegates from various Arab countries have been invited to take part in the three-day meetings at JUST during which 15 studies will be reviewed.

Tourists flock to Petra

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 26,315 tourists visited the ancient city of Petra in August bringing JD402,100 in revenues. According to Suleiman Farajat, director of the office of tourism, a total of 257,097 tourists came to Petra in the first eight months of 1996 obtaining JD4,661,110 for the country. The revenues stem from entrance fees to the ancient site.

Qatar, Jordan to work on plant

AMMAN (Petra) — Qatari ambassador Naser Abdul Aziz Naser stated his country will sign an agreement with Jordan towards the end of this year to construct an electricity generating plant, using gas supplied by Qatar. The agreement will be signed upon the completion of a feasibility study, carried out by the US-based firm, Enron Corporation. On July 8, while on a visit to the Kingdom, Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jasssem Al Thani stated that the American firm, which has been contracted to carry out the study and set up the plant, concluded an agreement with Jordan and Israel to set up a gas-operated electricity plant in Aqaba. The product will be transported by ship to Aqaba, and sold to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas. The Qatari ambassador described the project as an important economic project, which will supply Jordan with cheap energy while creating job opportunities for qualified staff. The ambassador added that a company will be established in Jordan to run the project. According to Enron Corp. the plant will cost \$300 million and is projected to handle up to 2.5 million tonnes of gas.

Pharmaceutical industrialists protest against 'premature' implementation of GATT laws

By Maria Bizri

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Pharmaceutical industrialists have warned against what they see as the adverse impact the application of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) patent laws will have on their businesses, and urged the government to negotiate a grace period during which these laws will not be applied, in order to allow them time to adjust to the new laws.

In various interviews with the Jordan Times, leading pharmaceutical industrialists said that there are large differences between the Kingdom's patent laws and those required by GATT, stressing that the abrupt application of GATT patent laws will severely weaken the industry.

They said a grace period will give the pharmaceutical industry time to adjust to the requirements of GATT.

Jordanian negotiators, they said, must aim at receiving short- and long-term interests of the Kingdom's industries, especially the pharmaceutical industry which, according to the Central Bank of Jordan, accounts for 10 per cent of the Kingdom's annual exports.

Under the Jordanian Patent & Design laws, pharmaceutical products can be registered in terms of the "means of discovery or its industrial process." The law, as amended in 1968, patents the process by which the product is made, but does not patent the final product.

Most Jordanian pharmaceutical products are made through analysing the original, and creating similar products through different process.

Applying GATT will prevent the industry from using such mechanisms and will force it to stop its production process.

GATT patent laws stipulate that patents "shall be available for any invention, whether products or processes; in all fields of technology, provided that they are new, involve an inventive step and are capable of industrial application."

Furthermore, the laws defined in an annex titled "Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights," ban the "... making,



A laboratory researcher at work at the Royal Scientific Society's Pharmaceutical Research Unit (photo provided by PRU).

using, selling, or importing [of] patented products" without the owners' consent.

Members, according to GATT laws, may provide limited exceptions provided that they do not "unreasonably conflict with a normal exploitation of the patent and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the patent owner."

Said Darwazah, a senior executive at Al Hikma Pharmaceuticals, one of Jordan's largest pharmaceutical companies, said that applying GATT regulations to the Jordanian pharmaceutical industry in its present state of development could be "extremely damaging."

He said that in Jordan the process rather than the product is patented, and pharmaceutical industries may develop a formulation, based on extensive analysis of a foreign original. Mr. Darwazah said that the second stage involves the conduct of "bio-equivalent studies" which help determine the effectiveness of the reverse-engineered product, in other words, the new product.

GATT patent laws, he said, would prevent such a process. As a result,

the industry would suffer enormously and the only way to reduce the impact of GATT on the industry would be to negotiate a grace period of at least 10 years, in order to allow sufficient time to develop research and development capabilities.

Enjoying a grace period and allowing a phased implementation, he stressed, will allow the industry to develop, especially since there exists the possibility that countries granted long grace periods under GATT might become safe havens for foreign investors.

Mr. Darwazah also warned that the implementation of GATT will lead to price hikes in all kinds of medicines.

Rakan Irshaidat, general manager of Advanced Pharmaceuticals (AP), said that although Jordan needs to update its intellectual property rights laws, joining GATT "too soon" would deliver a blow to the industry. The Kingdom, he said, needs a "transitional period" of 10 years before the Uruguay Round intellectual property rights laws could be enforced.

Mr. Irshaidat also said that entering into a partnership agreement with the European Union without sufficient preparation would be a mistake. He stated that several companies with a capital of JD50 million are benefiting from the Jordanian patent laws, and that these companies, as well as the whole industrial sector, would suffer great losses if the Kingdom could not enjoy a long grace period and a phased process of implementation.

Professor Hassan Muhammad Ali, director of the Pharmaceutical Research Unit (PRU) at the Royal Scientific Society, which conducts bio-equivalent studies for Jordanian as well as other regional pharmaceutical companies, said the Jordanian pharmaceuticals industry would suffer if the Kingdom joins GATT without a reasonable grace period.

Dr. Ali said that before attempting to implement the intellectual property rights laws required by GATT, the Kingdom needs to develop a national manpower as well as research and development units which would help in the development of the pharmaceuticals sector.

Man stabbed to death in Zarqa; neighbours suspect theft as motive

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — Police late Monday arrested a 30-year-old man in connection with the stabbing death of a photo developing studio owner in Zarqa, according to police and witnesses.

The victim, Rashad Amin Ismael, owner of Alwan Studio, located on Sa'adeh Street in downtown Zarqa, which he also used as his residence, sustained three stab wounds to the back, according to witnesses.

A shop owner next door was present when the incident occurred and told the

Jordan Times that he was sitting outside his shop with three friends when he noticed a man wrapped in a bed cover in the process of exiting his neighbour's shop.

"I saw blood on the man's hands and upon seeing me standing outside, he went back inside the store and closed the door," the witness said.

Alarmed, he called the police, then stood with his friends in front of Mr. Ismael's shop to prevent the suspect from escaping, he said.

"When we entered the shop with the police, we

saw Mr. Ismael lying on his bed with three knife wounds to his back," the witness said.

An autopsy performed on the victim Tuesday indicated that he received three stabs to the back of which one punctured his heart. The autopsy indicated that the victim was also strangled.

Another nearby shop owner stated he believed that the victim was stabbed for the killing, adding that in 1983 Mr. Ismael was stabbed in the head by an unidentified assailant who tried to steal his money.

"Probably the man killed

Abu Amin [the victim] with the intent of stealing his money because he worked and lived in the studio," he told the Jordan Times.

According to the neighbours, the victim, who had returned from Hebron last Friday after a short visit was a loner and was not often seen, if ever, in the company of friends. Nor was he married, they added.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Tuesday evening said they were investigating the incident, but refused to elaborate on the incident.

WHAT'S GOING ON

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

* "The Estranged Nation" — Aziz Khayoun performing the works of Sa'di Youssef and Hasab Ja'far at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

* "Pat and Margaret" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Batoul Al Fakiki at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Sept. 11.

* Works by artist Abeer Abu Joodh at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 5.

* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 8.

Misuari offers hand of friendship to opponents of Filipino peace treaty

GENERAL SANTOS, Philippines (AFP) — Former Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari arrived here Tuesday offering an olive branch to Christian opponents who burnt his effigy the day before.

"I am extending my hand in friendship to those who persistently oppose us," Mr. Misuari told a crowd of supporters in this mainly Christian city.

There were no demonstrations when he arrived aboard an Indonesian Air Force plane lent by Jakarta, but in the nearby city of Zamboanga, transport was paralysed as residents staged a general strike to protest the peace agreement he signed with the government.

Mr. Misuari, chairman of the erstwhile Muslim insurgent Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), signed the landmark peace pact at the presidential palace in Manila Monday, ending 24 years of rebellion that left 120,000 dead in the country's southern island of Mindanao.

"We came here to bring a simple gift to you: A simple package, a package of peace," he said at the airport.

The peace plan provides for an MNLF-led council, which the Christian majority fears would lead to Muslim domination.

Mr. Misuari later Tuesday left General Santos in a 20-vehicle convoy for Cotabato city, where he was expected to take a navy ship to Zamboanga in the evening, aides said.

In Zamboanga about 2,000 residents, including religious leaders and stu-

dents from Catholic schools, armed with anti-government placards, braved a steady drizzle to hear one of the two dozen priests deliver a combative sermon.

At the end of the mass, a wooden coffin was buried in a shallow grave to symbolise the "death" of democracy in Mindanao, the organisers said.

Two opposition senators told the crowd that under the treaty, the MNLF could expropriate land from Christian settlers on Mindanao, home to the country's Islamic minority, known as Moros.

Mr. Misuari, 55, is scheduled to attend a ceremonial signing of the accord in Zamboanga after he lands.

Originally, the signing was to have been held in a sports stadium in the city centre. But the military head for Mindanao island, Lieutenant General Ruperto Ambil, admitted that they could not be certain of protecting him in such a public place.

The ceremonial signing was transferred to a Muslim district on the outskirts of the city, where about 8,000 supporters, including uniformed but unarmed MNLF guerrillas, vowed to maintain a vigil until Mr. Misuari arrives.

In Manila, Mr. Ramos' aides said they will speed up the formation of the council, a central element in the peace accord, so that it can be operational "within three months."

The first phase of the peace agreement covers a three-year period which would see the formation of the council, allowing the

MNLF to play a major role in the economic development of the 14 provinces.

The second phase will involve the creation through a referendum of a Muslim autonomous region which the MNLF had demanded as a condition for halting the fighting.

Meanwhile, the extremist Abu Sayyaf group denounced Filipino Muslim rebel chief Nur Misuari as a traitor Tuesday for signing the peace deal with Manila and vowed to carry on fighting for an Islamic state.

"We have no plans of killing him... We will give him a chance to destroy himself as a politician," Abu Sayyaf spokesman Abdullah Asis said in the group's first reaction to the peace accord that ended a 24-year rebellion in which more than 120,000 people were killed.

Mr. Misuari heads the mainstream Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the biggest Muslim guerrilla group in the southern Philippines.

The military has described the Abu Sayyaf as the most radical of several rebel groups operating in the southern islands, and blamed it for a spate of bombings, kidnappings and raids in the past three years. Abu Sayyaf has shunned any talks with Manila.

"He betrayed our people. He sacrificed more than 100,000 lives of civilians... Therefore he is a traitor," Mr. Asis said in an interview with local reporters.

"We are here to fight until the last drop of our blood. We will push ahead with our goal of an Islamic state."

Race for H. Kong's post-colonial leader job moves up a gear

HONG KONG (R) — The race to become Hong Kong's first post-colonial leader moved up a gear Tuesday when an influential pro-Beijing adviser said he had the go-ahead to nominate the colony's top judge for the job.

Veteran adviser Xu Simin told Hong Kong reporters in Beijing he would nominate the judge, Chief Justice Sir Ti Liang Yang, later Tuesday.

Hong Kong newspapers said Judge Yang had already declared his interest and wanted to stand down early from his post as head of the judiciary.

The chief executive, who will take over from Governor Chris Patten at midnight on June 30 next year, will be chosen by a 400-member Selection Committee now being formed.

China's handpicked Preparatory Committee has handed out almost 20,000 nomination forms for the Selection Committee, due to name the leader-designate by November.

Newspapers said the 67-year-old chief justice had informed Mr. Patten Monday that he planned to accept the nomination and wanted to cut short his term of office, which ends next March.

A spokesman for Mr. Patten confirmed the governor had spoken to Judge Yang but declined to elaborate.

"The chief justice has been in contact with the governor following these reports," the spokesman said.

"He has indicated that he intends to clarify the position soon. Until he has done

so, I have nothing further to add."

Judge Yang is on holiday overseas. Mr. Patten returned from a summer break in Europe Sunday.

Opinion polls show Judge Yang to be a more popular choice than shipping tycoon Tung Chee-hwa, long regarded as the front-runner for the job.

Both Mr. Tung and Judge Yang, however, lag far behind Hong Kong's top civil servant in the popularity stakes.

Chief Secretary Anson Chan, who is number two in the colonial hierarchy to Mr. Patten, routinely tops the polls, but many believe her close association with the British administration has ruled her out in Beijing's eyes.

French Polynesia gatecrashes annual South Pacific Forum

MAJURO (AFP) — The annual South Pacific summit opened here Tuesday with France's admission to its dialogue session placed squarely back on the main agenda after a French Polynesian delegation gatecrashed the Marshall Islands venue.

The 27th summit brings together 14 Pacific countries plus Australia and New Zealand.

Dialogue sessions with a number of major powers follow the three day summit but this year France, usually a guest, has been banned because of last year's nuclear tests at Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia. The forum last year, in Madang, Papua New Guinea, expressed "extreme outrage" at the tests.

France's re-admission to next year's dialogue was expected to be a formality but has become more problematic after the uninvited arrival of the French Polynesians.

Marshall Islands Foreign

Minister Phillip Muller confirmed French Polynesian Health Minister Patrick Howell and an adviser to Territorial President Gaston Flosse, Alexandre Ata, arrived here earlier this week.

They were to stay at the Outrigger Hotel, the official forum venue, along with Vanuatu's delegation.

But Mr. Muller said their presence was awkward and asked that they leave the hotel and, eventually, the country.

"It was an impolite thing to turn up uninvited," he said.

It could not be established Tuesday whether the two men were still in the country.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan, the forum spokesman, was unable to comment on the incident, but did say that prior to the forum he had tried to produce a consensus allowing France's return.

He said the "right colour" did not come up and it would be decided at a lead-

ers' retreat Wednesday, adding it was not a foregone conclusion France would return.

"We owe France nothing, okay," he told a press conference.

"At Madang the outrage resolution was quite clear and we do not have to apologise to France."

Mr. Chan said the retreat would also consider an application by Malaysia to become a dialogue partner.

The forum was opened by Marshall's President Amata Kabua, who welcomed delegates from the bigger countries, Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

"We were worried you might not find your way," he said.

The forum will be dominated by discussion of the region's economic woes but will also debate nuclear issues, including plans to store nuclear waste here and on the neighbouring Palmyra Atoll.



Filipino Christians parade a mock coffin in southern city of Zamboanga to protest the signing of peace pact between the Philippine government and Muslim rebels in a glittering ceremony at the presidential palace in Manila. The demonstrators said, the coffin symbolises the death of democracy in the southern Philippines (Reuters photo)

Cambodian rebels attack breakaway group

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (AFP) — Hardline Khmer Rouge fighters launched a major attack Tuesday against a renegade faction in northwest Cambodia being helped by the government, military sources said.

About 200 guerrillas attacked Division 519 at Chup Koki village in Oddar Meanchey province in the biggest offensive since several divisions followed former Khmer Rouge leader Ieng Sary in splitting from the central leadership in mid-August, the sources said.

The renegades at Chup Koki were given weapons, ammunition, food supplies and pledges of military backing from Phnom Penh last Friday. They were the first renegades to receive military assistance from the army.

The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces also deployed 400 soldiers to assist the renegades in defending their territory against expected attacks from their former comrades.

It was not clear whether government troops took part in Tuesday's defence of Chup Koki, but an army commander told AFP Saturday that his men had been ordered to assist in any way possible.

The length of the battle was not immediately known and casualty figures from the remote village less than a kilometer from the Thai border were also unavailable, the sources said. Soldiers from a military base about 50 kilometres east had been sent to investigate, they added.

The hardliners, many of them members of Division 519 who chose not to join

the breakaway, were led by Commanders Sareoun and San who have been travelling in the area trying to convince others not to join, the officials said.

An AFP reporter in Chup Koki when the assistance from the government was delivered Friday, said the fighters and villagers were eager for peace with the government but that they expected retaliation from the hardliners.

The attack comes as negotiations continue between Phnom Penh and the breakaway faction led by former Khmer Rouge deputy premier and foreign minister Ieng Sary continue in the northwest.

On Monday in Sisophon, Co-Premier Hun Sen met Mr. Ieng Sary's son, Mr. Ieng Savuth, and four renegade commanders and deputy commanders, includ-

ing Ta Su, commander of Division 519.

The negotiations with the government are now about 80 per cent complete, according to participants.

The major stumbling block appears to be the faction's demand that Mr. Ieng Sary, who was convicted and sentenced to death in absentia for genocide in a 1979 show trial, be given amnesty.

Mr. Hun Sen has supported that move and King Norodom Sihanouk has said he will consider an amnesty if both premiers and the National Assembly ask him to.

The 1975 to 1979 Khmer Rouge government in which Mr. Ieng Sary served is held responsible for the deaths of at least two million Cambodians through execution, starvation and disease.

L. Americans meet; coca growers march on summit

COCHABAMBA, Bolivia (AFP) — Latin American leaders were set to begin a two-day summit here to discuss drugs, corruption, rebel movements and U.S. policy toward the region.

But the presidents' party could be marred by a march of some 500 coca growers who set off late Monday on a 180 kilometre march from the town of Villa Tunari to this central Bolivian city.

The growers, who are protesting a proposed government policy to confiscate land from those who grow coca to make cocaine, said they are prepared to face off with police once they reach the site of the 14-member group of Rio Summit Wednesday.

Their march could highlight the drug issue during the presidential meeting where leaders were expected to discuss their difficult position between U.S. insistence that they curb drug trafficking and social pressures from coca growers at home.

Already on the agenda is the U.S. policy of "decriminalizing" countries which Washington considers to be ineffective in their drug-fighting efforts.

The policy has already provoked condemnation from around the region, and Colombia — the main cocaine producing nation which was decertified in March — has asked for support for a new declaration against the measure.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine

Albright was expected to be on hand as an observer at the meeting Sept. 2-4.

She will likely pay special attention to the planned discussion of the U.S. Helms-Burton Law, which seeks to curb non-U.S. investment in Cuba.

The highly controversial law has been rejected by nearly all the Latin American nations, as well as the European Union and Canada.

The summit will also serve as a launching pad for bilateral talks on economic issues and thorny border disputes. Chilean President Eduardo Frei is the first democratically elected leader of that country to visit Bolivia since the 1879 war of the Pacific in which Bolivia lost its access to the Pacific. The two countries have not had diplomatic relations since 1975.

A meeting between Mr. Frei and President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada was scheduled for late Monday to discuss bilateral relations, which the Chilean leader said he hoped would be "fluid."

On a different sideline to the summit, Peru's President Alberto Fujimori will meet for the first time with new Ecuadorian President Abdala Bucaram.

A one-month armed conflict broke out between Ecuador and Peru in 1995 over a small stretch of undemarcated border between the two nations.

Red-faced Diana hits credit card snag

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana had to dip into her reported £17 million (\$26.6 million) divorce settlement to pay in cash for two lipsticks when her credit card was rejected at her favourite store, the Sun newspaper reported. The tabloid said Princess Diana, whose divorce from her to the throne Prince Charles became final last week, looked furious as her store card was turned down twice for the £24 payment. Her spokesman told the paper that Princess Diana's card had expired and blamed the shop, up-market Harvey Nichols in London's Knightsbridge district, for being too slow to send her a new one.

Man held in Tampa with bags full of weapons

TAMPA, Florida (R) — A seminary student was arrested at the Tampa International Airport after officials searched his duffel bag and knapsack and found a virtual arsenal inside. Tampa police said Roman Regman, a student at St. Tikhon's Seminary in northeastern Pennsylvania, tried to board a USAir flight with two carry-on bags that were so full the airport X-ray machine could not detect their contents. Airport officials searched the bags by hand and found a 9 mm pistol, two hand grenades, six military-style knives, 181 rounds of ammunition and a ski mask and homemade handcuffs. Tampa police charged Mr. Regman with 14 state weapons and explosives charges. Mr. Regman, who was being held at the Hillsborough County Jail, also faces a federal investigation by the FBI, authorities said. An FBI spokesman could not be immediately reached for comment. A third-year student at the Orthodox Church in America seminary, Mr. Regman studied the Bible but also subscribed to military magazines and dressed like a soldier, neighbours said. The Romanian native was studying to become a monk.

Menem defends presidential golf

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (R) — Argentine president Carlos Menem, stung by criticism for playing golf on foreign visits and during a general strike, accused his detractors of envy and argued that golf helped him think. "Perhaps this is the product of the impotence of those who can't play this sport," said the sports-mad Peronist leader, who is frequently shown by Argentine Television playing golf and depicted by cartoonists with a golf club in his hands. "I think almost all presidents, kings and prime ministers have played golf," he said, citing present and past U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton and Dwight Eisenhower as leaders who found the game helped them decide matters of state. "But I always think, not just when I'm playing golf," he added in an interview with ATC state television.

Jackson's personality cult takes over Prague

PRAGUE (R) — The ancient Czech capital has suffered invasions of dictators and demonstrators but nothing and no one so extraordinary as Michael Jackson and his cohorts. The controversial and self-styled "king of pop" plays his first concert in two years when the HlStory world tour starts Saturday on Prague's Letna Plain, where Communist leaders once reviewed troops and Pope John Paul II held mass. Jackson is expected to receive the kind of welcome usually reserved for heads of state when his jet lands at Prague's VIP terminal and he is whisked away in a Rolls Royce.



A Bolivian soldier burns a makeshift cocaine laboratory in the tropical jungle of Chapare, 200 kilometres north-east from Cochabamba. Drug-trafficking is one of the issues on the agenda of the Rio Group Summit in Cochabamba, where leaders from 14 Latin American nations are meeting (Reuters photo)

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World News



Two Chechen women walk past the remains of a Russian tank in the Chechen capital of Grozny, Monday (Reuters Photo)

Human remains found at Belgian horror house

JUMET, Belgium (AFP) — Belgian police Tuesday discovered a skull and other human remains at a house owned by child rapist Marc Dutroux where the corpses of up to five girls are believed to be buried.

The police said it was not immediately possible to establish whether the remains were from one or more bodies or to identify them.

"Once the remains have been exhumed, an autopsy will be carried out. It could take several days to complete the process of identification," police spokesman Jean-Marie Boudin said.

In pictures of the exhumation broadcast by Belgian National Television, "one skull could be clearly seen and other remains appeared charred, indicating the body or bodies may have been burned before being buried."

The remains were discovered after police dismantled a shed attached to the dilapidated wooden chalet formerly occupied by Mr. Dutroux's accomplice, Bernard

Weinstein.

On a secret visit to the site last week, Mr. Dutroux reportedly told police that Weinstein had buried five bodies under the shed, including those of An Marchal, 17, and Eefje Lambrechts, 19.

Mr. Dutroux admitted kidnapping the teenagers last August.

He has also confessed to the kidnapping of Sabine Dardenne, 12, and Laetitia Delhez, 14, discovered alive last month in one of the cells he built at his numerous properties to house victims.

Weinstein, who collaborated with Mr. Dutroux in what police believe may be an international child sex ring, was found buried at Mr. Dutroux's main house last month, close to the bodies of Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, the two eight-year-olds who were left to starve to death in one of Mr. Dutroux's cells.

Mr. Dutroux has confessed to Weinstein's murder but a motive for the killing has yet to be established.

Digging at the house at Jumet, near Charleroi in southern Belgium, was expected to be completed by Tuesday afternoon. Police are then expected to turn their attention to two other properties owned by Mr. Dutroux where more bodies may be hidden.

At least 12 children who have gone missing in Belgium in 1985 and are still unaccounted for.

The country's anguish over the Dutroux affair intensified Tuesday when it was confirmed that another eight-year-old girl had disappeared from the city of Liege.

Dominique was last seen Monday evening when she left her home to walk to her aunt's house, several kilometres away. A nationwide search has been launched and police in neighbouring countries have been alerted.

Taiwan's DPP faces split; rebels set to form radical party

TAIPEI (AFP) — Radical members of Taiwan's main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) plan to break away and form a party to strengthen the campaign for total independence from China.

The two groups, the Taiwan nation-building society and the Taiwanese Association of University Professors, said they would establish the Taiwan nation-building party on Dec. 10.

China has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province since the end of a civil war in 1949 and has repeatedly vowed to attack if the island officially breaks from the mainland. China staged war games off Taiwan before the island's presidential elections in March in a new warning.

The group, which formed a committee last month to prepare the party, accused the DPP of abandoning its goal of pushing for independence.

"We worry about the future of Taiwan and the DPP," said Lin Shan-Tien, head of the new party's preparatory committee and a law professor of National Taiwan University.

He said that after Hong Kong returns to China next year, "the pressure for the so-called Chinese unification will become greater, and it will be bad for us if we cannot keep a strong voice to promote an independent Taiwan."

Li Yung-Chieh, a committee spokesman, said growing Taiwanese investment in China has also increased reliance on the mainland and weakened calls for a break. More than 30,000 Taiwan firms have invested over \$20 billion in China.

Lin said the Dec. 10 launch date had been deliberately chosen to tie in with International Human Rights Day. The party will be launched in Kaohsiung, where 18 years ago, when Taiwan was still under martial law with rallies banned, a human rights march turned into a riot.

The "Kaohsiung incident" became a watershed for Taiwan's pro-independence movement and led to the ending of martial law and the legalisation of the non-violent promotion of Taiwanese independence.

DPP officials rejected accusations that the party was abandoning its pro-independence goal. But there is a growing split between the moderate and radical members over the DPP's future.

"Of course, we support Taiwan independence, which is our major goal. But still we need to adjust ourselves to the political changes at home and abroad," said secretary-general of the DPP, Chiu Yi-Jen.

China policymaker not to visit Taiwan

BEIJING (R) — Beijing rejected Tuesday an invitation for one of China's top policymakers to visit the island, saying Taipei must first abandon its bid to break out of diplomatic isolation.

"It is impossible," a spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, or cabinet, said when asked if Wang Zhao-guo, director of the office, would accept the invitation from Taiwanese business leader Kuo Ching-Yuan.

The spokesman said the time for such a visit was not ripe because Taiwan had yet to abandon its "pragmatic foreign policy" of trying to break out of diplomatic isolation.

"Taiwan...should not seek to enter the United Na-

tions," the spokesman told Reuters by telephone. Beijing replaced Taipei in the United Nations in 1971.

China regards Taiwan as a rebel province and insists the island is not entitled to official links with other states.

If Mr. Wang had accepted and Taiwanese authorities had allowed him to visit, he would have been the most senior Chinese official to set foot on the island since the end of China's civil war in 1949.

Last week, a spokesman for a delegation of Taiwanese business leaders visiting Beijing quoted Wang as saying he would be happy to visit Taiwan if he had an opportunity, but that there was no definite commitment to accept.

China has stepped up pressure on Taiwan in recent years to lift a decades-old ban on direct trade and transport links between the two sides. Last month Beijing unilaterally announced a set of regulations to pave the way for direct links.

Taiwan has banned direct trade, transport and mail links since 1949. Indirect trade and investment has been allowed since the late 1980s, usually through Hong Kong.

Many Taiwanese businessmen, who have poured more than \$20 billion into China, are eager for direct trade and transport, but Taiwan has been reluctant to remove the curbs, which it views as its last bargaining chip in talks with the Communists.

U.N. suspends census of Rwandan refugees in Zaire until Sunday

GENEVA (AFP) — The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has suspended until Sunday a census of Rwandans in camps in eastern Zaire, who fear that the count will lead to forced repatriations, a U.N. spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Last Sunday, Hutu refugees destroyed census posts in camps housing more than 700,000 people on the shores of Lake Gombe, on the border between Rwanda and Zaire, spokeswoman Judith Melby said.

Nobody was hurt, but the UNHCR suspended the count until Sept. 8 and has begun consultations with camp leaders, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the local authorities.

The U.N. agency also pulled out non-essential staff and has cut its operations to essential health care and the provision of water and food.

Ms. Melby connected the fears of the refugees with rumours that Zaire plans to expel Rwandan Hutus afraid of going home after the genocidal civil war of 1994, in which Hutu extremists killed more than half a million minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Towards the end of August, the Zairean and Rwandan governments announced an agreement to close the camps before elections due

in Zaire in the first half of next year.

The UNHCR stressed that the planned census, which will demand how much food is required in the camps, has nothing whatever to do with the bilateral accord between the Zairean government and the regime that took over in Rwanda after rebels of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) seized the capital Kigali in July 1994.

The census has been planned for a long time, according to the UNHCR, at the demand of donor countries.

Ms. Melby said the situation in the camps was calm Tuesday. The Zairean and Rwandan authorities have assured the UNHCR that repatriations would take place on a voluntary basis with the participation of U.N. agencies.

Much of the fear among refugees has been blamed on members of the routed former Rwandan army and Hutu extremist militiamen living among them, who have been intimidating people from going home and spreading tales of summary reprisals for the genocide.

The United Nations reported Monday that Rwandan soldiers killed at least 111 people, many of them unarmed civilians, during sweeps in the west of the tiny central African nation last month.

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Lebed: Yeltsin approved peace plan for Chechenya

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin has given his full backing to the breakthrough peace accord National Security Council chief Alexander Lebed reached in Chechenya, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Tuesday.

The premier, cited by ITAR-TASS news agency, said Mr. Yeltsin approved the plan signed Saturday by Gen. Lebed and Chechen rebel Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov.

It put an end to the bitter 20-month Chechen conflict, which has left more than 40,000 people dead, and put off the delicate issue of Chechen independence for five years.

Earlier Mr. Chernomyrdin, speaking on a trip to the nearby Caucasus Republic of Kabardino-Balkariye, said he also supported the accord which had followed "the general line" set by Russian officials for reaching peace.

"We have to take all necessary steps so the process begun by the signature of a ceasefire accord in Chechenya can develop positively," Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

He said the peace settlement had stopped the fighting and had been welcomed by the Russian and Chechen people. Interfax News Agency reported.

The president's agreement in particular was vital to the accord's success, but Monday both he and Mr. Chernomyrdin had been conspicuously silent on it.

Gen. Lebed himself told a news conference Tuesday he did not know what Mr. Yeltsin's official position was.

The straight-talking general has asked in vain several times to see Mr. Yeltsin, who has been on holiday for more than a week amid renewed fears for his health, to discuss the accord.

Gen. Lebed, who has not seen the president since



A Russian boy plays on a destroyed Russian APC in Grozny Monday. Russian Security Council Alexander Lebed convinced Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin that the deal he reached with Chechen separatists brought peace with honour (Reuters photo)

Aug. 12, said he was in touch with him via telephone and memos, and he cited a Russian proverb that "silence means approval."

But he warned that the accord was only a first step. "There is still a potential for confrontation, the war has only been stopped."

Russian parliamentary deputies, including the liberal Sergei Yushenkov, have confirmed the document signed by Mr. Lebed does not expressly mention the principle of territorial integrity.

The Lebed plan allows the Chechens to decide their own future "according to accepted international norms."

The Chechens say that effectively enshrines their republic's independence, but Moscow insists it keeps it within Russia.

Under a ceasefire accord signed on Aug. 22, all Russian and Chechen rebel forces were to have left the Chechen capital Grozny by

the end of last week.

The military command said Saturday that all Russian troops had pulled out to bases on the outskirts of the city, except units participating in joint patrols with Chechen fighters.

Meanwhile, the Russian military accused Chechen separatists of regrouping in several parts of Chechenya in violation of the demilitarisation accord, Interfax reported.

It quoted the press service for the Interior Ministry Forces as saying they had regrouped south of Grozny, and also in the regions of Gudermes, Gerzel-Aul in the east and Znamenskoye in the north.

The press service said the overall situation remained calm, but Chechenya's pro-Moscow government claimed there was mounting violence in Grozny.

It said a Russian family had been killed, 12 people had been taken hostage while more than 200 bur-

glaries and attacks on pro-Russian supporters had been reported, all since the accord was signed.

Government spokesman Yunady Usanov, quoted by Interfax, said Grozny had not known such a rise in violence for six months.

He said the joint Russian-Chechen units were in fact completely run by the Chechens, and that the separatists were setting up parallel power structures, in contravention of the accord.

Gen. Lebed said Tuesday about 80,000 people have been killed in fighting in breakaway Chechenya.

"One may say that about 80,000 people have died, plus or minus 10,000," Gen. Lebed told a news conference. "Accordingly there are three times as many injured."

There have been few official casualty figures for the conflict in the Caucasus region and there was no way to confirm Gen. Lebed's figure.

Clinton takes campaign plane after train, bus

DE PERE, Wisconsin (R) — After a week of rolling across the countryside by train and bus, President Bill Clinton Monday returned to a more traditional mode of presidential transportation — Air Force One — and stormed into another midwestern state.

He was greeted by one of the biggest crowds yet on this nine-day, 10-state campaign swing — about 25,000 gathered on the bank of the Fox River at Voyageur Park, where explorers Pierre Marquette and Louis Joliet landed in the 1600s.

It was the last day of the long haul that centred around his acceptance last week of the Democrats' nomination for a second four-year term at their convention in Chicago. After a stop in Milwaukee, he was to return to Washington and concentrate on how to respond to Iraq's military actions against the Kurdish minority in northern Iraq.

At a sunny Labour Day family picnic in this suburb of Green Bay, a largely

Republican area that Mr. Clinton lost in 1992 to George Bush by 5 percent, age points, the president honoured the work ethic and stressed his education proposals including the launch of a national literacy campaign for children and granting families a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 a year for the cost of college tuition.

"That is a bridge worth fighting for," he said, continuing his post-convention campaign slogan that he represents "a bridge to the future" as opposed to Republican Bob Dole's claim that he would serve as "a bridge to the past" to hearken America back to a time of higher moral virtues.

Mr. Clinton took the opportunity to attack Sen. Dole's proposal for a 15 per cent across-the-board tax cut, saying it would trigger deeper deficit spending and cause interest rates on such everyday matters as credit cards and home mortgages to go up.

"Folks, we tried this once

before," he said, referring to 1980s tax cuts under Republican President Ronald Reagan.

"Would you go to the bank yourself to borrow money to give yourself a tax cut? Then why would you hire somebody to do it for you?"

Mr. Clinton was heartened by a sign in the crowd, "Republicans for Clinton," telling its owner "God bless you." Asked later about the size of the crowd, he said: "It's amazing."

He won Wisconsin by more than 100,000 votes in 1992.

Internal Clinton campaign polls show him considerably ahead in this important state. Then it was back to Air Force One for Mr. Clinton, who spent four days on a train and two on a bus in the last nine days.

Mr. Clinton's campaign aides believed that during the trip his message got out to 75 per cent of the "persuadable" voters who are independent, not beholden to either party, and who may

hold the key to victory in the Nov. 5 election.

Campaign aides estimated Mr. Clinton may have been seen personally by almost half a million people on this trip. "An extraordinary week of campaigning by the president," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

Mr. Clinton also appeared to have used the trip to blunt Sen. Dole's surge in the national opinion polls. After Sen. Dole received the Republican nomination, he got a "bounce" that drew him within single digits of Mr. Clinton, but recent surveys put the incumbent back to 12 to 21 points ahead.

No challenger has ever overcome a lead that great this late in a U.S. presidential campaign. Mr. Clinton's aides expect the race to tighten but say an eight-to-10-per cent margin of victory — a landslide that could give him long conatals for Democratic congressional candidates — is not out of the question.

Dole kicks off autumn campaign preaching tax cuts

ST. LOUIS, MO. (R) — Republican candidate Bob Dole began the final two months of his drive for the White House Monday, saying President Bill Clinton was a bridge to "A future of higher taxes (and) more teenage drug use."

Trailing by about 15 percentage points in two new polls, Sen. Dole brought his message of cutting taxes, boosting growth and fighting drugs to St. Louis, his first stop on a four-day tour of seven states. He was seeking to do what no presidential candidate has done before: Overcome a big Labour Day lead by a sitting president.

Standing beneath the gleaming 190-metre gateway arch in downtown St. Louis, Sen. Dole told an enthusiastic crowd of more than 10,000 that he and his

vice presidential running mate would cut taxes while Mr. Clinton would raise them.

"Jack Kemp and I believe (it's) the time to give a break to every American who works and every American who pays taxes. That's what this campaign is all about," he said. "My opponent says he wants to be a bridge to the future, but as Jack has said, he's a toll bridge. You pay every inch of the way, every step of the way, you pay and pay and pay."

The Republican candidate was playing on Clinton's references at last week's Democratic National Convention in Chicago to his serving as a bridge to the 21st century.

Appearing with Mr. Kemp and their wives, he also attacked Mr. Clinton on

drugs, capitalising on a recent study showing teenage drug use had risen since he came into office.

"He would be a bridge to a future of higher taxes, more teenage drug use, a government-run health care system," Sen. Dole said, promising to deliver on his plan for an across-the-board 15 per cent cut in tax rates and balance the budget.

"We are going to be a bridge to lower taxes, to fewer teenagers using drugs," he said.

A Clinton-Gore campaign spokeswoman said Sen. Dole should spell out how he will pay for his proposed \$548 billion tax cut. "If Senator Dole wants the American people to trust him, he should tell what he will cut," she said.

After the rally, Sen. Dole shook hands with the crowd

and climbed a stage to sing along with musicians playing his campaign theme song "I'm a Dole man."

He later attended a baseball game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Houston Astros, entering the stadium to cheers mixed with a few loud boos. He was to fly to Salt Lake City later in the day to attend an evening fundraiser and speak to the American Legion Tuesday.

Dole-Kemp campaign spokesman Nelson Warfield said Sen. Dole had chosen Missouri to begin his campaign trip because it was a swing state in the critical midwestern region.

"The gateway arch is the gateway to the west," Mr. Warfield told reporters travelling on Sen. Dole's plane. "It's an important battleground for the entire region."

...trying to sell her body or
give it away?

U.S. strikes Iraq with 27 cruise missiles

(Continued from page 1)

George Bush while Mr. Bush was visiting Kuwait that year.

The 23 missiles destroyed an Iraqi intelligence headquarters in central Baghdad where U.S. officials said the plot had been hatched. Six civilians were killed.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters earlier there was evidence that some of the Iraqi forces that overran the northern Iraqi city of Erbil during the weekend were "penetrating deeper" into northern Iraq and threatened Sulaimaniyah, administrative capital of the Kurdish opposition.

Mr. McCurry said there was also reason to believe that some Iraqi troops were involved in executions of leaders of an anti-Baghdad Kurdish faction in Erbil.

The White House believes Baghdad sent three tank divisions composed of 30,000-40,000 Elite Republican Guard troops into northern Iraq to help the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), involved in a bloody power struggle with another Kurdish group with links to Iran, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

It says U.N. Security Council resolutions approved after the 1991 Gulf war provide the legal basis for responding.

Oil prices shot briefly to post-Gulf war highs of \$23.50 a barrel early on Tuesday. Gold and the dollar rose and stocks and bonds fell, although price movements were not dramatic.

PUK Kurdish leader Jalal

Talabani welcomed the strikes but said they had so far failed to deter tank and artillery movements toward his rebel positions.

An Iraqi opposition group also welcomed the U.S. action while expressing concern about possible civilian casualties.

"We welcome any action to reverse Saddam Hussein's invasion of northern Iraq," a spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress said. "But we are concerned about civilian casualties. Saddam often puts military facilities in residential areas."

Iraqis in Baghdad shrugged off news of the cruise missile attacks and life went on as normal.

"Whatever America does it will be nothing in comparison to what it did in the war over Kuwait. Their sabre-ranting finds more of a hearing at home," said a taxi driver on his way to the northern city of Kirkuk. In Geneva, the United Nations refugee agency said it had set up an emergency task force to draw up contingency plans in case of a refugee exodus from Iraq. An Iraqi army statement said five people were killed and 19 wounded by the missiles, which it said hit civilian as well as military targets.

Asked about the possibility of a second attack, Mr. Clinton said "it depends entirely on what Saddam does." His Defense Secretary, William Perry, said: "We certainly reserve the right to conduct further military action."

Mr. Clinton began considering military action on August 18 with the first reports of the latest attacks

on the Kurds. Mr. McCurry said.

The spokesman said U.S. efforts to unite the fighting Kurdish factions against Baghdad were "difficult and tragically impossible" and that by Aug. 26 it was clear that Iraqi troops were staging a massive military buildup.

Mr. Clinton sent the first serious warning to Iraqi officials at U.N. headquarters in New York last Wednesday, Mr. McCurry said.

That contact was followed up by a second notice Friday as Mr. Clinton was reviewing plans for military action, and a final warning was issued after the airstrike to bolster the message that no further aggression would be tolerated, Mr. McCurry said.

Mr. Aziz defended Iraq's military operations in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq as legitimate.

Mr. Aziz, in a telephone interview broadcast live on CNN Television, said Iraqi military forces had taken part in a limited operation on Saturday to help the KDP regain the city of Erbil from the PUK.

"What we did was legitimate. What the United States did was illegitimate and against international law, against the letter and spirit of United Nations resolutions about Iraq," Mr. Aziz said.

He dismissed as "deliberate disinformation" official U.S. reports that Iraqi troops were still in Erbil or that they were moving towards Sulaimaniyah. "What we did was a responsible, positive, limited operation to help our people. We did nothing

wrong," he said. Repeating Iraqi charges that Iranian troops were helping PUK, Aziz said the Iraqi army's operation was designed to thwart "the adventurist policies of Mr. Talabani".

Mr. Aziz denounced the U.S. decision to extend the a no-fly zone in southern Iraq. "Iraq will not tolerate this no-fly zone any more. It has gone beyond reason," he said.

Two months out from the presidential election, Tuesday's action could bolster Mr. Clinton's image as commander-in-chief. Republican rival Bob Dole has sought to portray Mr. Clinton as a weak leader whose lack of military experience has hurt U.S. stature across the globe. Yet Mr. Dole quickly fell into ranks after the attack, declaring, "I stand foursquare behind our men and women in uniform."

However, Mr. Dole also said he hoped "this development marks the beginning of decisive action by the United States to curtail the power of Saddam Hussein, and the end of his defiance of the international community and of his atrocities against the Kurdish minority in Iraq."

Early reaction from Congress was supportive.

In Baghdad, residents said air raid sirens had blared in parts of the Iraqi capital on Tuesday but were not heard all over the city. Witnesses said anti-aircraft fire was launched from positions in Baghdad, but it was not immediately clear what the fire was aimed at.

Israel is not the restoration of David's Kingdom

By Father Ibrahim Ayad

OVER A YEAR ago, I was invited to Cyprus to participate in a symposium under the title: "The Signs of Hope" sponsored by "Evangelicals for Middle Eastern Understanding," in collaboration with various Middle East churches and whose aim was the deepening of relations between Mideastern and Western churches as well as mission organisations. We also studied one another's historical, theological, cultural and political issue along with discussions about the imperatives of the Christian faith, relating to reciprocal understanding, reconciliation, peace and justice among all peoples of the region regardless of religion, race and culture, with special reference to the Palestine question, and the Zionist pretension that Israel is the restoration of David's Kingdom.

These were the subjects of thorough discussion by selected experts in different religious, theological and social fields, with highly objective scientific results. The lack of real peace based on justice is evident, and the different meetings and optimistic declarations do little to express the reality of the situation as our people do not feel any change in Israeli attitudes or behaviour: the Israeli army is still in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, although they have left the cities of Gaza and Jericho. Subsequent to the assassination of (Prime Minister) Rabin, Mr. Shimon Peres, acting as prime minister, evacuated five cities in the West Bank — the only exception being Hebron, and yet all main roads in the West Bank surrounding the evacuated cities remained solely under Israeli security control as the Israeli generals, who attended all of the negotiating meetings, refused to allow the participation of Palestinian security. The lands surrounding these cities are seized to open broad roads under the pretext that the settlers must avoid passing by Arab cities and villages. This means that less than thirty per cent of the West Bank remains for the Palestinians. And this is because Zionist generals, indoctrinated by Talmudic teachings, believe firmly that so-called Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) is land bestowed by God to them.

This Zionist claim that Palestine is a gift from God is now the basic tenet of the Israelis in negotiating with the Palestinians on the final solution to the conflict. The army generals who are participating in the negotiations are indoctrinated from childhood since elementary schools pass on these chauvinistic conceptions, which have become a fundamental dogma in the Jewish community worldwide. This pretension was officially and boldly declared by former Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, from the pulpit of the Knesset, on March 2, 1983, when he stated: "We did not conquer the territories from their legal owners, but liberated them in 1948 from the countries that conquered them. We have not annexed them. They are part of the Biblical Land of Israel, and what is part of your country you do not annex."

After the 1967 war and the conquest of the remaining parts of Palestine, many European and American Jews subscribed to the myth that the land of Palestine belonged to them, not because they fought for it, not because of any grant from the United Nations in the Partition Plan of November 1947, but because it was given to them by God; the Israeli generals behaved and relied upon this specious

concept in the discussions with the Palestinians in the last negotiations in Taba and elsewhere.

This myth, the concept that modern Israel can be identified with the ancient Hebrew kingdom is extremely dangerous in its consequences and ramifications as it contradicts the Christian faith and the mission of Christ.

Unfortunately there are some Christian Churches which uphold this concept, ignoring the clear text of the Holy Scriptures; and I wonder, on what criteria or justification they base this strange acceptance; attempting to destroy the personality of Christ and his mission for the salvation of mankind.

Unfortunately there are many millions in America, called Christian Zionists, who strongly support Israel on the basis of this concept. This support is more important than the Jewish Community's support for the Zionist state. Moreover, a few Jewish Zionists criticise Israel from time to time for the hardships and savagery it inflicts on the Palestinians; but no Christian Zionist will dare do so. They are the most loyal, the most fanatical supporters of military Zionism and they are encouraging Israel to take more Arab land as well as collecting money for the construction of new settlements as they did for the construction of the Shilo settlement near St. Elias Convent on the Bethlehem road.

From a Christian point of view, I believe that it is necessary to note the profound difference between Judaism before Christ and Judaism after Christ; the first relies upon the teachings of the prophecies and the expectation of the fulfilment of these prophecies i.e., the coming of the Saviour. The second tries to minimise the significance of the prophecies and oppose explicit refusal to Christ's message, and does not accept the New Covenant sealed by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary; and still reluctant, or rather, they refuse to recognise this historical fact and believe that the Old Covenant is still valid.

The substitution of the Old Covenant with the New one is very clear in the Gospel, especially at the Last Supper, when Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist as a palpable and tangible sign of the New Covenant; and in the first chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, and in St. Paul's letters: "He came into his own, and His own received him not and a new era started to humanity" (ch. 1 v. II).

In fact St. Paul, in his letters, insisted on this substitution. In his letter to Corinthians II (ch 5 v. 17) he declares: "If any one is in Christ he is a new creation, the old passed away, behold the new has come." In the letter to the Hebrews (ch. 8 v. 13-16) he explains: "In speaking of a New Covenant, he treats the first as obsolete and what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away." In his letter to the Galatians, the Apostle concentrates on the person of Christ the fulfilment of the promise, when he says: "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring, it does not say and to offsprings, to many, but referring to one, and to your offspring which is Christ."

Because of these texts and others in the epistles, the new Zionist theology labels the New Testament, particularly the texts of St. John and St. Paul, anti-Semitic. Therefore, the economy of salvation and the vision of its history is basically different, even contradictory, between the Christians and the Jews.

The Christians believe in two periods in the history of salvation: Before Christ and after Christ; while the Jews maintain that the old alliance remains without any change, ignoring the evident historical fact of the coming of Christ. This position is incompatible with the Christian faith, and contrary to Christian messianic belief in Jesus.

We admit to reading such promises from an essentially Christian standpoint in light of the New Testament, doubtless our reading differs from that of the Jews, who select passages from the Bible, which correspond to their political aims and pretensions.

These promises were given to Abraham, to Moses at Sinai, and to David the king and prophet.

The promises made to Abraham when the Lord said to him: Go from your country and your father's home, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing... go and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you obeyed my voice (Gen. 22-18) to your descendants I will give the land (Gen. 12-7) and David in the Psalm (105: 42-45): He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham His servant, so he led forth His people with joy... and gave them the lands of the nations... to the end that they should keep His statutes and observe His laws. In considering the promise to Abraham, the Christian must keep in mind the following:

1) These promises were fulfilled literally and in their entirety in the conquest of Canaan under Joshua.

2) These promises were made on the condition that the people would obey the covenant.

The Jews did not obey hence they were driven from the land, and the promise of the land was no longer valid. If we go through texts of the Old Testament we clearly see the transgressions and abominations the Jews committed against God, and by consequence, the Lord punished them and severed his relations with them. In Deuteronomy we read in chapter 31. ver. 16, 17: The Lord saith unto Moses, "behold thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go whoring after the gods of the strangers... and will forsake me and break my covenant which I have made with them, then my anger shall be kindled against them and I will forsake them... and many evils and troubles shall befall them." "How many temples in honour of the idols, especially that of Baal the Jews built on the hills of Jerusalem and shed innocent blood which the prophets deplored and condemned. Ezekiel the prophet: thus saith the Lord God: ye eat with the blood and lift up your eyes towards your idols; and shall ye possess the land? Then they shall know that I am the Lord when I have laid the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed (ch. 33 v. 25, 26, 29).

Daniel the prophet: yea all Israel have transgressed thy law... therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses, the servant of God is cancelled because we have sinned against him (Daniel ch. 9 v. 11). After the return of Babylon there is no mention of any other return neither in the Old nor New Testaments.

3) The New Testament interprets these promises in terms of a spiritual redemption from the captivity of sin, a redemption which is available to Gentiles as well as to Jews.

4) The promise to Abraham was fulfilled completely and forever in Christ.

5) Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant which renders the Old Covenant obsolete.

6) The belief that the modern state of Israel is the fulfilment of a prophecy reflects upon the finality of Christ. He, Himself is the true temple, priest and sacrifice, the final Prophet, the Universal King. After the substance, the reality has come, who will be content with the shadow?

7) The chosen people were chosen to be the initial recipients of God's revelation of Himself, in order that they might convey it to all mankind.

The New Testament speaks of the Church as "the Israel of God" upon the Church therein lies the responsibility involved in this choice: to preach the name of Christ in to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem and not ending there." St. John in his Gospel (ch. 1 v. 20) says: Come to his own and his people did not accept Him; He gave to whom accepted Him to be called "sons of God." Therefore the chosen people are those who accepted Jesus and His mission, who worship Jesus, love Jesus, and practise His teachings and commandments: the Christian people.

Thus, the identification of the modern Jewish state with that of the Hebrews of the Old Testament does not stand up to scrutiny according to the Holy Scriptures — it is based on political interpretations rather than on theological or scriptural ones. His Holiness the Pope John Paul II in his meeting with Zionist leaders in the American city of Philadelphia in July of 1987, made it clear that modern Israel is a political entity created by the United Nations and has no connections with the Biblical Hebrews. Furthermore, the Christian Peace Conference held in Gortitz, Germany on Oct. 22, 1988, appealed to churches and theologians worldwide to counteract the false interpretations of Biblical prophecies identifying the secular state of Israel with the chosen people of God. This conference was attended by 400 delegates from 60 countries from all over the world.

In the whole New Testament there is no reference at all to the return of Jews to Palestine.

In his book, Israel in the Bible Prophecy, Southern Baptist Minister John L. Bray expressed that present-day Israel is not a fulfilment of Biblical prophecy and states particularly that there is not a single verse in the New Testament which denotes that the Jews will be restored to Palestine to establish a state.

We believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired word of God and we believe that God's last word to man is Jesus Christ, his son, the living word (Hebrew ch. 1 v. 1). In Christ the prophecies of the Old Testament find their perfect fulfilment (Matthew ch. 5 v. 17).

To relate the redemption of the world, which God made manifest in Christ, to the conquest of any particular territory by any particular race is to revert from the New Testament to the Old. It also reflects upon Christ's personality, mission and the deformation of Christian history.

American attack draws mixed reaction from allies

(Continued from page 1)

military operations in Kurdistan were not violations of U.N. resolutions and that France supported Iraqi sovereignty.

The ministry issued a statement saying France, which gave military aid to Iraq during its war with Iran in the 1970s expressing "concern over the development of the situation in Iraq." Mr. Rummelhardt said, "we cannot see that United Nations resolutions were affected by the Iraqi actions. Iraq is at home everywhere (on its territory) and the intervention followed a written request of one of the most important Kurdish movements."

Mr. Rummelhardt said France supported "the sovereignty of Iraq within its internationally recognised borders."

France withheld its support...

Turkey, the only NATO member bordering Iraq, said it had tried very hard through diplomatic means to allay the need for the strike.

Pakistan expressed "extreme concern" over the U.S. attack, stressing its support for Iraq's territorial integrity.

"Resort to use of force by any side will only exacerbate the existing tensions, posing fresh dangers to peace in the region," a foreign office spokesman said.

The spokesman, expressing "extreme concern," said the government and people of Pakistan had "time and again expressed their deepest sympathy for the people of Iraq, who have been the principal victims of the unfortunate situation."

Norway said it hopes the United States will "show the necessary restraint in Iraq to avoid damage to civilians."

background we understand fully the U.S. reaction against the Iraqi regime of President Saddam Hussein."

He added that President Saddam was responsible for increased tension and an escalation in the conflict that has brought immense suffering to the Kurdish people.

"We are worried and hope that the Iraqis are serious when they say they are withdrawing all their military troops from the Kurdish areas," he stressed.

India expressed concern over the attack, saying it was likely to affect Middle Eastern peace and security.

"We are gravely concerned at reports of U.S. cruise missile attacks today on targets near Baghdad, and the adverse effect that this is likely to have on the peace and security in the area," a foreign ministry statement said.

India was also concerned at the possible loss of civilian lives and was monitoring the situation closely, the foreign ministry said.

The Italian foreign ministry called the U.S. military strikes in Iraq "inevitable."

"The American action this morning represents an inevitable response to the Iraqi attack on Kurdistan and Baghdad's non-respect of United Nations resolutions, which could not fail to provoke punitive measures," the ministry said in a prepared statement.

U.N. chief expressed concern about the humanitarian impact of the latest tensions in Iraq.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said his main concern was "what effect this will have on humanitarian assistance," his spokeswoman Sylvia Foa said.

She said the deterioration of the security situation would "clearly complicate" the aid delivery.

Opposition parties denounce American 'aggression' on Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

sacrifices in defence of the Arab Nation," it added.

The statement demanded that "the government issue a condemnation of the U.S. aggression and seek to end it at the international forum and to work towards lifting the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people."

The statement urged the Lower House of Parliament "to convene an extraordinary session to pass the appropriate decision vis-a-vis this aggression and urge Jordanian parliamentarians to seek outright international condemnation of the American aggression."

"We call on the Jordanian citizens to pursue efforts reflecting their support for the Iraqi people

who are facing the U.S. arrogance and aggression," added the statement.

The centrist Al Ahd party issued a separate statement calling on Arab countries and the United Nations to adopt "suitable measures to ensure Iraq's sovereignty and restore to security and stability to the people of Iraq."

The statement condemned the American attack on Iraq and said the missile strike as unjustified. The Iraqi army's movements in north of the country came "in response to aggression from neighbouring countries which contradicts the commitment of the allied forces to protect Iraqi territories from aggression and to maintain the unity of its people," the party said.

Jordan rejects external interference in Iraq's affairs

(Continued from page 1)

firm position rejecting any attempt to undermine the sovereignty of Iraq, the unity of its people and its territorial integrity. The council affirmed Jordan's policy that this territorial integrity and sovereignty must not be subjected to any danger. Instead, efforts should be directed at launching a national Iraqi dialogue based on democracy, freedom and respect for human rights in order to rehabilitate Iraq so that it can reassume its Arab and international role.

"Jordan is following with grave concern the recent escalation and the military operations which might take Iraq back to the cycle of violence and counter-violence, with its various ethnic and religious groups paying the price. Jordan

warns of the dangers of such an escalation, and calls for self-restraint, avoiding resorting to violence, adherence to the resolutions of international legality, and the resumption of dialogue based on such resolutions and on respect for the rights of all Iraqi citizens."

"At the same time, Jordan reaffirms its long-standing position that it is committed to the security, stability and safety of each Arab country as well as to preserving the national unity and respect for human rights in each of these countries."

"Jordan stresses that its territory has never and will never serve as a base for any attack directed against any Arab country or people. Our national security is part and parcel of the Arab national security."

Jordan Times
 Tel: 684 311 / 699 634
 Fax 696 183

Privatisation of Royal Jordanian 'might take two or three years'

By P.V.Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government intends to raise the capital of Royal Jordanian (RJ) from JD 70 to JD 210 million as one of the first steps towards alleviating the national carrier's debt burden and commercialising its operations as part of the ongoing economic reforms in the country.

Simultaneous with the efforts to reorganise RJ, the Ministry of Transport is also adopting moves to commercialise the operations of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The CAA is a fully government-controlled organisation and the aim of commercialising its operations is to do away with the exemptions that it offers to RJ and maintain it as an independent entity, albeit state-controlled, that is commercially fully accountable.

The increase in RJ's capital of JD 140 million represents the debts that the airline owes to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) and a mechanism will be worked out by the government to define this part of the equity, said Minister of Transport Nasser Lawzi.

Several options are under consideration in this respect, the minister said but declined to elaborate. "It is up to the Council of Ministers to decide after our proposals are studied by the Cabinet's development committee," Mr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times.

The decision to increase the RJ's capital comes after more than two years of



Nasser Lawzi

studies on the best means to streamline the financial status of the airline.

Mr. Lawzi said a decision in principle had been taken to "first commercialise the operations of RJ and then implement the best means to privatise it."

"The first step in commercialising the airlines is alleviating its debt burden, and this will come in the form of the increase in the capital," Mr. Lawzi said, noting that it also means a "better equity-to-debts ratio."

"This means that the airline will be more bankable and stable in terms of its obligations," he added. "We would like to accomplish this as soon as possible."

The airline also has foreign debts of about \$400 million, most of it in lease payments on aircraft. Part of the outstanding lease payments has been rescheduled under guarantees provided by the government, the sole owner of the carrier.

Apart from the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, local creditors of RJ include the Social Security

Corporation (SSC) and the Housing Bank.

Mr. Lawzi said the airline's dues to the refinery company represented the bulk of its domestic debts. "We will soon address the rest of the company's internal obligations on a case-by-case," he said.

The bulk of RJ's debts was incurred in the 80s after the airline launched an ambitious expansion and modernisation programme at a time when the airline industry was undergoing a recession.

A government committee chaired by the prime minister is directly in charge of "restructuring, commercialising and privatising" the national carrier along recommendations made by a British consultant, KPMG Peat, which studied the airline's accounts and overall operations and status last year.

The committee includes the ministers of public works, finance, transport, and higher education as well as the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

Mr. Lawzi conceded that

the issue of commercialising and privatising the national carrier had been "debated for long" with little to show in terms of visible practical moves in this direction. However, he said, "this government is seriously determined to streamline the status of the airline and has a precise programme to implement the moves."

"It will not be a short-term project," he emphasised. "Nobody is saying it is going to be easy. It might take two or three years."

RJ, which has several lucrative flight routes and serves as an important link between Europe and North America on the one hand and Asia and the Far East on another, has proved that it is a commercially viable organisation by posting operational profits over the past several years. But, economists note, the airline's main problem is the weight of its debts.

As such, an alleviation of the debts and streamlining its capital status should help the airline to improve itself significantly.

By commercialising the operations of the CAA and doing away with the exemptions from service fees which the authority now offers RJ, the government hopes to realise a more realistic performance of the airline, noted Mr. Lawzi.

"We already have a study on how to convert the status of the CAA and we will soon be implementing measures towards that end," said Mr. Lawzi. The study was conducted by a Canadian consultant company under a grant given by the government of Canada.

Iraqi offensive seen as boon to Gulf coffers

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Iraq's military involvement in inter-Kurd fighting will likely keep oil prices buoyant in the next few weeks, pumping more funds into the coffers of neighbouring Gulf states, analysts said Monday.

The offensive on the strongholds of a Kurdish rebel group in northern Iraq has already sent shock waves into world markets, with the price of Brent crude oil surging by 82 cents to \$21.60 in London on Monday.

Oil prices are now at some of their highest levels since crude prices shot above \$30 after Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

"The events in north Iraq will not block oil exports from Gulf producers but could delay supplies from Iraq itself under its oil-for-food agreement with the United Nations," a Gulf-based oil executive said.

"The immediate impact of this is that oil prices will rise slightly while they

could, remain firm in the next weeks. In other words, the delay in the Iraqi oil exports will prevent any possible decline in prices," he added. "This means prices could remain above \$18 this year. Naturally, the main beneficiaries will be Gulf states as it means more money for them."

Reacting to the Iraqi attack on the Kurdish capital of Erbil on Saturday, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Sunday he would delay implementing the oil-for-food deal with Iraq.

He said he would postpone the deployment of U.N. personnel who are to supervise the enforcement of the oil accord in line with resolution 986.

Under the terms of the accord agreed in May, Iraq is allowed to export \$2 billion of oil every six months under strict U.N. control to buy food and medicines.

It is the first easing of the sanctions imposed after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Oil prices had been strong before Iraq's biggest military operation in more than five years because of low crude stocks in industrial countries.

The price of OPEC's basket of seven crudes averaged around \$18.5 until the end of August, nearly \$2 higher than their level in 1995.

This means Saudi Arabia and its five partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) earned nearly \$5.5 billion in extra revenue during the first eight months of 1996.

"A one dollar increase in oil prices means more than \$11 million in additional earnings for the GCC every day," an oil analyst said.

"Prices are now even above the \$18 level sought by the GCC. This shows how much they benefit from any extraordinary circumstances that could keep prices firm. That is the case with the events in north Iraq," he added.

Palestinians to request donors for \$150m emergency assistance

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian officials headed Tuesday to Washington for a meeting of international aid donors to Palestinian self-rule, saying they would request \$150 million in emergency assistance.

"We are going to present the conference Thursday with reports on all projects undertaken in the Palestinian autonomous areas" with international financing, said

Nabil Shaath, the delegation head and minister of international cooperation in the self-rule government.

Mr. Shaath said the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) would request the immediate disbursement of \$150 million in aid already

pledged by the international donors conference.

Mr. Shaath and other Palestinian officials have complained repeatedly of the failure of most donor states to meet their pledges of aid to the PNA.

Qadhafi declares war on inflation

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi declared war on inflation and corruption in a speech Monday to mark the 27th anniversary of the coup that brought him to power.

The broadcast speech concentrated on economic matters with only one political reference in a swipe at the United States for its reaction to Iraq's military intervention in Kurdistan. With Libya under a limit-

ed U.N. embargo since 1992 for its alleged support of terrorism, Colonel Qadhafi said the rate of inflation had reached a point where it threatened to become intolerable.

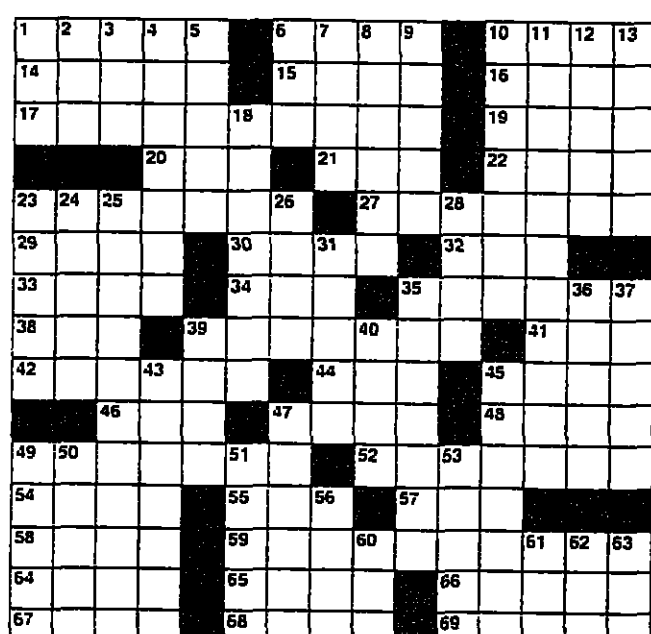
Singling out the price of imported cheese, he said that the official price of a kilogramme was one dinar (\$3 at the official rate of exchange) but it was being sold in the shops at 18 dinars.

He paid tribute to watchdog committees charged with combating illicit enrichment and corruption, which he revealed had recently ordered the arrest of several people, including an army officer who possessed several palaces.

In future, Col. Qadhafi declared, no one would be allowed to own more than one house or farm.

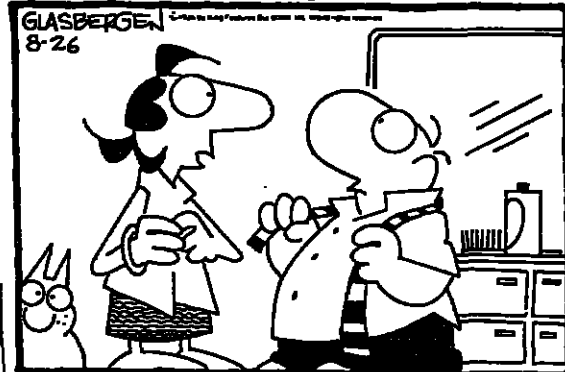
THE Daily Crossword by Chuck Deodene

- ACROSS
1 Counterpart
6 Town near Des Moines
10 Open a bit
14 Hilo howdy
15 Bygone
16 Moderate
17 Author of "Ulysses"
19 Look over
20 Commercial pact: abbr.
21 — Rafael, CA
22 Enamelled metalware
23 Mexican border town
27 Fit to imbibe
29 Bedouin
30 Gaelic
32 Alphabet run
33 Thrashes
34 601
35 Threaten
38 Verse or lateral starter
39 First U.S. chief justice
41 Tub
42 Slip-up
44 U.S. troops
45 Entree, e.g.
46 Run for the health of it
47 Fine fellow
48 Leave — Beaver
49 Underwriter
52 Unbeatable fess
54 Stanley and America's
55 "Maude" portrayer
57 Angling need
58 — Stanley Gardner
59 Colleague of Ricki Lake
64 Fritz's refusal
65 Outward, pref.
66 Olympic great
Jesse
67 Bivouac shelter
68 Midterm
69 Scott



- DOWN
1 Army off.
2 Chicken — king
3 Cruise
4 Angels
5 "— la vista!"
6 Address for 44A
7 Giant Hall-of-Famer
8 Bust out
9 Courtroom asst.
10 Practice self-denial
11 Four-term N.Y. senator
12 In any way
13 Actress Taylor
18 Anonymous female, legally
23 Actress O'Neal
24 Tabriz resident
25 "Cry Baby" singer
26 Foot feature
28 — Call the "Wind Maria"
31 Char
35 Adeptness
36 Hindu social class
37 Body of beliefs
39 Amphorae
40 Lamp spirits
43 Permission
45 Abate
47 Country on the Aegean
49 Whiff
50 Thick soup
51 — d'art (museum piece)
53 Voodoo amulets
56 Tiny toilers
60 Negative
61 Society column word
62 Comp. pt.
63 Latvia, formerly: abbr.

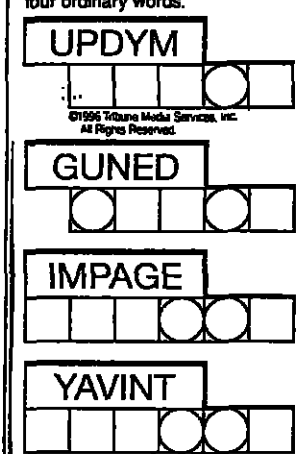
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"My boss won't give us a casual dress day, but on Fridays we're allowed to use bad grammar."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: DEITY WALTZ TYRANT HOOKED
Answer: What balking jokes do after a while — WEAR "THIN"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

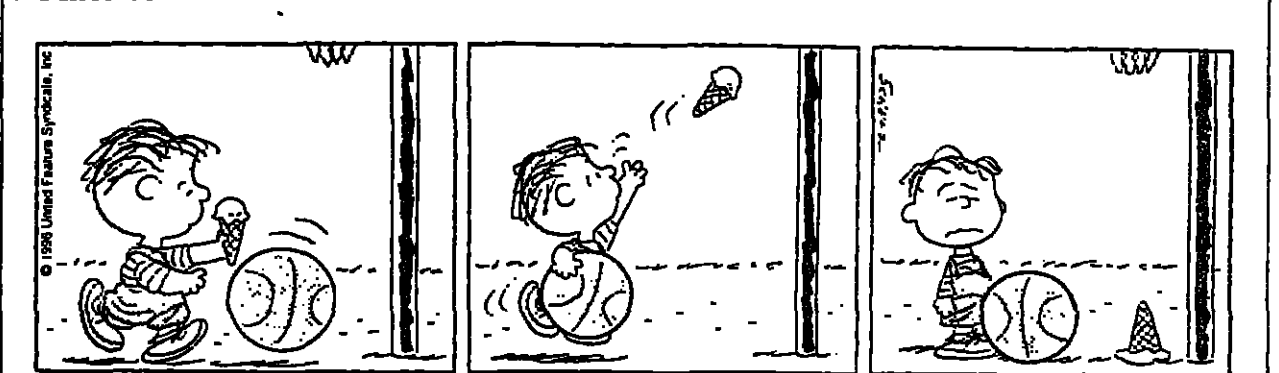
by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

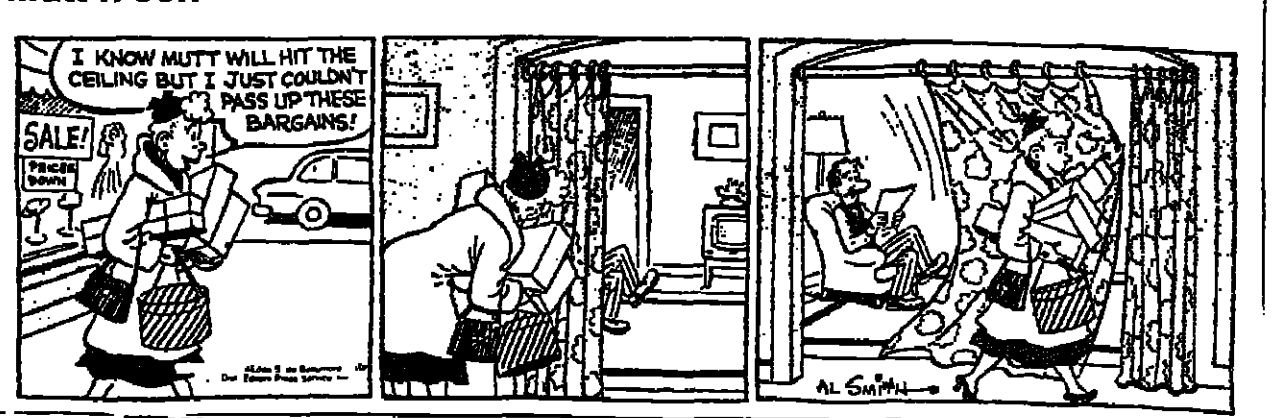
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) There may be delays in the path of your progress today, however, exercise patience and carry on with your daily duties. Later this evening you can meet with a knowledgeable person and gain insight for your success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Those who seem upset at home today may have obstacles to be solved which are difficult, so be helpful and suggest some remedies. Later tonight you can go out on the town with your mate and have a romantic time together.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your fellow associates may need handling with kid gloves today in order to maintain harmony, so do whatever you can to relieve a tense situation. Later this evening you can have fun with your loved ones and just relax.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take care not to invest in something today which could turn out to be a mistake in the days ahead. Tonight is a good time for you to complete any pressing tasks which you have put aside for the moment.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You must use diplomacy today if you want to get your points across to your fellow associates. This is a good day for group affairs so spend this time with close friends and have fun with them in pleasant activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Show your mate today that you are truly devoted to him or her even if the situation is rather strange at this time. This is a good time later this evening for you to meet with a bigwig and gain the prosperity you desire.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) There may be delays in gaining aid from a close friend today for some project which means much to you. So be patient with the outcome. Later tonight you can relax with your loved ones and spend some quality time together.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be careful in handling outside affairs today otherwise you could suffer some very great loss. This evening you can consult with a knowledgeable person and gain the answers to your questions concerning career activities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are enthused today about some new venture and start handling it quickly, however, there will be delays which you had not expected to encounter. Tonight you will be able to meet with a bigwig and plan out some strategy.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You desire to clean the slate and start anew today, however, it may take far more time than you imagined for you to complete your career activities. This evening you can meet with close friends and have some fun together.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You may find it difficult today to go through with your part of any contract you have made with others, however, you must follow through to secure your reputation. Later this evening you can have some fun with your loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Handle your career activities conscientiously today and get good results. Understand the ambitions of fellow associates and seek their advice for a new project which you are involved with at this time.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

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Reforms and bargains lure investors to Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Economic reform by the government and the prospects of great bargains have whetted the appetite of international investors for Egypt's fledgling equities market.

Securities houses say a stable political environment compared with alternative markets in the region, and the government's obvious commitment to privatisation have added to the appeal of Egyptian stocks.

The market's imminent inclusion in the international financial corporation composite investable index will also boost the appeal of shares with an average price/earnings ratio of 8.7. Some have p/e ratios as low as six and in many cases offer a 12 per cent yield guaranteed one year in advance.

"Give me a good reason why I should not invest in

Egypt?" said Albert Moudmjan, the London-based head of the Middle East and North Africa division at HSBC James Capel.

"Comparing it to other emerging markets, Egypt is really one of the cheapest in the world and the country is politically sound in a volatile region. The bourse is strong and the state is keen to put Egypt back on the global scene," he added.

The organisation's faith in the market made it sponsor the first fund to trade Egyptian equities — the Concord fund which raised between \$40 million and \$45 million and is quoted in London.

"SBC Warburg and Lazard Freres capital markets have since raised \$74 million for the Egypt trust which they say is the largest equities fund on the market.

After years of dragging its feet on economic reforms, the state — led by its eight-month-old cabinet — has dedicated itself to accelerating privatisation.

It has so far relinquished control of almost a dozen firms as well as selling minority stakes in many others. More sales are scheduled for September.

Egypt has only minor restrictions on foreign investment and its currency has been stable at about 3.4 pounds to the dollar for almost three years.

Sceptics say the Egyptian pound is overvalued, that the Middle East peace process is stalled and that newly-privatised companies face major problems in trimming their bloated payrolls.

But Dina Khayat, manager of the Egypt Trust, said:

"From every point of view it (the Egyptian market) has come together — the economy is very supportive, privatisation has picked up, and the share valuation is great."

Shares on the Cairo bourse surged 15 per cent in July in buoyant trade and are now at their highest level in 18 months.

"The Egyptian market is certainly attractive and we're studying it carefully," said Tom Chadwick, a London-based Middle Eastern market analyst at Merrill Lynch, which took part in a June conference on investing in Egypt.

"Egypt's economy has depth and it's one of the largest in the region. Also, the changing attitude of the government towards liberalisation is encouraging," he said.

The government estimates that the economy will grow at 5.7 per cent in the current financial year which began on July 1 compared with 4.9 per cent growth in the previous year.

Egypt's reform efforts have almost certainly earned it the IMF approval needed for the Paris Club of creditor nations to write off a final \$4 billion tranche of foreign debt. The fund and the state are expected to ratify another agreement shortly.

"We're getting almost daily calls from foreign investors asking us about the market, which is very new, and around 100 foreign financial institutions have bought into the market in some way or another," said Mohammad Hossny, vice president of Egypt's Triple A Securities.

IDB hikes lending

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) hiked lending to various Jordanian projects by 69 per cent as it extended 104 loans amounting to JD 22.6 million until the end of August 1996. During the same period of last year, the bank extended 95 loans amounting to JD 13.4 million.

"These loans will finance industrial and tourism projects in the Kingdom and will provide Jordanians with 1,331 job opportunities in order to alleviate unemployment problems," according to IDB statement.

It said that the tourism sector was granted 23 loans amounting to JD 7.7 million to finance projects such as hotels and restaurants.

The statement added that the assets of the IDB are estimated at JD 135 million by the end of June 1996, up nine per cent from the JD 124 million posted at the end of June 1995.

Total revenues rose by 16 per cent.

The bank has recently adopted a policy of offering businesses a package of integrated diversified services which have proved to be useful to borrowers.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK INDEX AMMAN - SEPTEMBER									
TELEPHONE: 50111 / 407179									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 03/09/1996									
LAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	LAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/R	DIV.	NO. OF TRNS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE
250.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	12.9	1.40	18	400	82975	231.00	235.00
1.230	0.880	HID. EAST INV. BK.	40.4	0.00	4	1250	1150	.92	.92
2.700	2.100	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	6.27	1	250	555	2.2	2.28	2.28
5.720	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.3	1.01	5	1250	5738	4.63	4.63
3.040	2.800	JOB. KAWAT BANK	19.2	0.00	2	1763	4672	2.66	2.66
3.240	2.890	JOB. GULF BANK	15.4	0.00	4	10250	9148	2.91	2.91
4.180	3.300	JOB. ISLAMIC BANK	17.2	0.00	8	2634	5613	3.39	3.39
4.080	1.700	UNION BE. SAV. INV.	9	0.00	1	3700	7907	1.77	1.77
4.000	3.000	JOB. INV. FID. BANK	16.8	0.00	2	216	665	3.10	3.10
3.430	2.330	BEIT AL-HAL (BEITRA)	1.8	6.26	6	1340	3188	2.31	2.31
1.090	0.230	ARAB BANK INV.	9	0.00	8	17000	3740	.23	.23
1.650	1.000	PRINCE. INV. BK.	9	0.00	14	8577	2871	1.13	1.13
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 180.90	ICBIS: +1.16	73	38620	133583		
2.910	2.150	JOB. FARMER TRUST	6.1	9.22	1	750	1628	2.20	2.17
1.050	2.600	JORDAN GULF INSUR.	5.4	5.24	1	462	1321	3.01	2.86
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 121.39	ICBIS: 0.15	3	1212	2949		
1.800	1.450	JOB. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.8	7.74	22	29886	46156	1.54	1.55
1.560	1.140	TRNID. ELECTRICITY	9.7	6.76	2	800	1284	2.47	2.48
2.800	2.090	JOB. PHOSPHATE TRUST	9.3	8.09	2	800	1100	2.20	2.20
2.130	1.080	JO. PORTFOLIO	9.3	0.00	3	2480	2814	1.19	1.19
1.160	0.880	JO. REAL ESTATE INV.	21.1	3.38	3	850	817	.82	.95
3.750	1.650	JOB. INDUSTRIAL CORP. INV.	22.7	0.00	2	4500	7125	1.68	1.68
1.240	0.600	JOB. INVEST. TRAD.	12.8	0.00	2	1750	2108	1.19	1.19
2.480	1.790	HID. KAS. HOLDING	76.7	0.00	2	1750	2108	1.19	1.19
1.380	0.960	SARKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	14	8400	10110	1.08	1.08
1.200	0.820	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	2	450	414	.92	.92
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.33	ICBIS: +0.12	55	46256	65615		
26.620	18.940	JOB. TOBACCO & CIG.	11.4	3.47	1	20	432	20.98	21.61
1.720	1.060	JOB. CEMENT FACT.	19.3	2.96	70	4616	15434	3.36	3.38
3.550	2.710	JOB. PHOSPHATE TRUST	9.3	8.09	2	700	2020	2.90	2.90
2.960	2.470	ARAB POTASH INC.	16.7	3.82	8	1300	12720	5.28	5.28
10.550	8.720	JOB. PETROLEUM & MIN.	9.4	8.64	15	3982	36901	9.27	9.26
3.750	1.650	JOB. INDUSTRIAL CORP. INV.	22.7	0.00	2	4500	7125	1.68	1.68
8.250	6.420	JOB. MORTGAGE MILES	9.1	3.82	1	200	1420	7.10	7.10
5.100	3.100	ARAB FARM. TRUST	20.6	5.33	11	2700	10126	3.79	3.78
8.000	3.130	JORDAN DATA	12.9	1	60	100	210	2.10	2.10
3.210	2.500	GENERAL KIWING	7.3	10.83	1	250	713	2.93	2.95
8.000	4.250	DAR ALDINAR INV. TR.	12.9	4.26	17	3780	17879	4.79	4.70
8.000	3.130	ARAB ALUM. TRUST	8.5	8.72	2	250	860	3.45	3.44
740	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	77	216200	132428	.60	.61
1.800	1.050	ARAB PAPER CORP. TR.	8.6	8.23	1	400	828	2.88	2.88
2.450	1.110	NATIONAL STEEL TR.	9	0.00	18	10280	13367	1.46	1.56
1.110	0.600	NATIONAL IRON	9.9	8.96	12	15150	10151	.67	.67
2.030	1.050	INTERMED. PETRO. CORP.	9	0.00	26	12700	13336	1.09	1.08
8.360	4.510	JOB. WOOD IND. TRUST	16.5	2.31	1	500	2168	4.23	4.23
2.180	1.040	ARAB FARM. TRUST	26.8	0.00	28	14200	13986	1.44	1.43
1.820	1.040	KAUFMAN INVEST.	50.3	4.29	4	800	693	1.40	1.40
1.380	1.760	TRNID. WOOD. TRUST	9.4	0.00	7	3500	6132	1.77	1.77
2.100	1.140	JOB. INV. HONORABLE	17.0	0.00	23	11700	15708	1.38	1.38
1.700	0.900	JOB. NEW CARBON CO.	26.3	0.00	10	2600	3531	.97	.97
1.490	0.640	JOB. TRADING TR.	26.3	0.00	2	4500	5688	1.49	1.49
2.120	1.120	UNION CO. & VED.	26.3	0.00	2	250	288	1.13	1.13
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 110.94	ICBIS: -0.02	309	318468	330969		
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 104.80	ICBIS: -0.62	440	605556	532916		
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 03/09/1996									
800	510	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	21.7	0.00	1	450	343	.58	.56
810	510	JOB. TRADE FAC.	16.5	0.00	2	600	372	.62	.62
980	440	HAITI. CONCRETE CENTERS	9	0.00	1	500	245	.80	.49
980	440	UNION INV. 501	69.8	0.00	9	37000	8310	.73	.73
1.200	520	ARAB 3IN. INVEST.	9	0.00	36	40850	24482	.85	.83
970	510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	29	23050	10183	.68	.71
1.770	1.370	NATI. CHELONIA	8	0.00	5	3500	4816	1.40	1.39
1.380	530	NATI. TEXTILE	9	0.00	7	2750	1462	.54	.53
1.200	580	NATI. MULE. IND. WAREHO.	8	0.00	15	84446	48412	.58	.57
1.080	770	JORDAN STEEL	2	0.00	3	1100	738	1.78	1.78
840	430	ARAB ELECT. IND.	2	0.00	4	32500	15500	.45	.44
940	620	HIGHWAY PHARM. 758	2	0.00	5	2000	1810	1.16	1.15
1.710	1.100	UNION TOBACCO 75	2	0.00	4	41200	11538	.63	.63
880	630	EAST PHARM. 68	2	0.00	4	4600	3903	.83	.83
850	440	IND. ENG.	37.7	0.00	3	890	514	.79	.79
1.450	770	2ND. CEMENT	3	0.00	1	8000	4950	.63	.62
950	530	HAITI. POULTRY	8.3	0.00	15	28480	20200	.72	.71
1.500	536	KID. EAST COMPLEX	8.3	0.00	15	28480	20200	.72	.71
GRAND TOTAL					150	517296	162844		
+ Sep 12 months low + Stock dividend during the past 12 months + Listed during the past 12 months + P/E ratio is 100 or more + Negative P/E + Earnings in euro or N/A for the most recent year									

Arab Bank scales new heights

** BY ACHIEVING A JD46.1 million (\$65 million) net profit during the first six months of this year, the Arab Bank Ltd. has boosted its net profit growth by 29.1 per cent over the JD 35.7 million posted over the same period of last year. The mid-year net profit of the Arab Bank Group amounted to \$95 million as of June 30, 1996.

Earnings from interests and commissions grew by 16.4 per cent to reach JD117.4 million but other earnings increased the amount to a total of JD 131.7 million compared to JD113.5 million earned during the first half of 1995. Earnings of the Arab Bank Group stood at \$248.8 million.

Board chairman Abdul Majeed Shoman announced that the bank's overall balance sheet increased from JD11.6 billion at the end of June 1995 to JD13.5 billion at the end of June 1996. He said that deposits grew by 13.9 per cent reaching JD6.51 billion and by adding JD2.16 billion of deposits from banks and financial institutions, the overall total of deposits becomes JD 8.67 billion. The shareholders' equity rose by 13.3 per cent to reach

JD552 million.

The bank hiked its portfolio of loans and credit facilities by 14.7 per cent to JD3.9 billion and boosted investments to JD1.35 billion. The investments in securities for trading purposes amounted to JD849.3 million (JD749.8 million in 1995) whereas the volume held for own investment portfolio was JD506.3 million (JD400 million in 1995).

Mr. Shoman noted that the bank's liquidity at mid-year remained high at 51.5 per cent and the capital adequacy ratio was 14 per cent.

The figures for the Arab Bank Group at the end of June 1996 were \$23.66 billion for the balance sheet total, \$12.73 billion for total deposits, \$6.30 billion for credit facilities, \$2.45 billion in shareholders' equity.

The Arab Bank was established in 1930 in Jerusalem with a 15,000 Palestinian population at mid-year. Now, the Arab Bank is owned by over 3,000 shareholders, notably the Shoman family which established the bank, and has 300 branches and representative offices all over the world (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaki).

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Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.4636	0.6383	0.7036	109.15	1.3693	1613.37	1.6630	5.0785
DE Mark	0.6746	1.0000	0.4936	0.5363	73.61	0.9228	1019.85	1.1208	3.4227
GB Sterling	1.5686	1.5686	1.0000	0.7875	171.15	2.1455	2371.78	2.6063	7.9590
CH Franc	0.8284	1.2283	0.5282	1.0000	90.41	1.1339	1253.00	1.3768	4.2045
JP Yen	0.0092	1.3580	0.5839	1.0449	1.0000	1.2533	13.85	152.22	4.6480
CA Dollar	0.7302	1.0810	0.4578	0.8760	1.25	1.10327	1.2127	3.6988	
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9799	0.4213	0.0797	1388.12	0.9045	1.00	3.3538	
NL Guilder	0.6013	89.16	0.3834	72.57	65.59	0.8230	909.60	1.00	3.0516
FR Franc	0.1969	0.2921	0.1256	0.2376	21.48	0.2696	32.74	32.7400	1.00

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	22.75	21.50
WTI	22.20	22.20
Bony	22.75	21.50
Dubai	20.65	19.80
UL Gas	217.00	217.00

Mid-East Currencies

U.S. Open

Agassi makes a date with Muster

NEW YORK (AFP) — Andre Agassi and Thomas Muster set up a much-anticipated quarterfinal clash at the U.S. Open tennis championships with four-set victories on Monday, but only Agassi was smiling.

Despite dropping the first set to wild card David Wheaton, Agassi was pleased with the way his game is shaping up.

"I did what I needed to do," he said. "Some players, you can't just come at them. David Wheaton is the kind of guy, if you give him the pace constantly, he can hurt you. I mixed it up well."

Agassi, seeded sixth, beat Wheaton 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4. He said his inability to get to grips with Wheaton's serve cost him the first set.

"I just didn't break his serve, that was all there was to it," Agassi said. "Then I just kind of stayed on it. He got a bad call there, potentially. He thought it was. It was close."

That was at deuce in the second game of the second set, when Wheaton thought he had an ace and it was called well.

"He double faulted, double faulted for the game," Agassi said.

"That kind of turned things around."

Agassi, who had a mediocre start to the year but pulled himself together to win the Olympic singles title in Atlanta and amass a total of three tournament victories this season. He believes he is still on an upswing.

"This summer has been a nice turnaround for me," he said. "I feel pretty confident."

Agassi said he started the European clay court season low on confidence. He lost early in the French Open, and again at Wimbledon.

"You get through some of those tough matches, things could turn around sooner," he said. "But I didn't. After France, I just committed to working hard. Then I was back on the hard courts, which was nice for my confidence level. Took another hard loss in Washington, and then my game came together."

Agassi, who benefitted from the U.S. tennis associ-



Thomas Muster

ation's decision to vary from the world rankings in selecting the seedings for the U.S. Open, denied that his quarterfinal with Muster was a grudge match.

Muster, who earned the world number one ranking earlier this year and is now the world number two, was demoted to third seed by the USTA.

The Austrian beat 13th seed Thomas Enqvist 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 on Monday, but he was suffering with a digestive ailment that kept him up much of Sunday night. He bolted out of the national tennis center as soon as his match was over.

Enqvist, however, was in no position to take advantage of Muster's weakness.

"I tried to play aggressive," Enqvist said. "But I played a little bit too much up and down."

"If I had served well, I think I would have had a better chance. The first set was very important. I had 5-3 and set point. In that game I did three double faults. Against the number two player in the world, you can't do that."

Stich in reported Austria tax tiff

VIENNA (R) — Austrian national radio said Monday that German tennis ace Michael Stich was apparently at loggerheads with Austria's revenue service over how much income tax he must pay in his adopted Alpine home.

Orf Radio said Stich, who has lived in the central Austrian city of Salzburg since 1992, was contesting the bill from local tax authorities.

The tennis pro's tax file was currently being examined by the finance ministry in Vienna, Orf added.

Neither the Salzburg Tax Bureau, the finance ministry nor Stich were immediately available for comment.

The squabble centres on whether Stich qualifies for tax relief under Austria's so-called "skiers' edict" which exempts athletes, who compete across the globe but reside in Salzburg, from paying tax on three-quarters of their income.

Orf said the tax authorities and Stich also disagreed over whether income from advertising or sponsors' contracts fell into the same category as other income.

It was not immediately apparent how much money was in dispute.

Dutch refs call off strike

ROTTERDAM (R) — Dutch soccer referees called off a strike planned for later this month after the soccer union (KNVB) offered improved terms, news agency ANP said Tuesday.

Referees had threatened to go on strike and wipe out a week's entire first division programme unless the KNVB increased match fees, pension rights and other payments. ANP said the KNVB had made a move towards the referees but details of the improved terms were not disclosed.



Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

Hingis stuns Sanchez Vicario; Graf stands firm

NEW YORK (AFP) — Martina Hingis ousted Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in three sets to reach the quarterfinals, but Steffi Graf stood firm in the face of the youthful challenge on display at the U.S. Open tennis championships on Monday.

Hingis, whose age of 15 almost matches her world ranking of 16, posted the best victory of her fledgling career with a 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 win over Sanchez Vicario, whose three career Grand Slam titles include the 1994 U.S. Open crown.

Graf, the reigning U.S. Open champion and winner of 20 Grand Slam titles, stopped a less experienced 15-year-old. Anna Kournikova, in her tracks in the fourth round.

Kournikova, a Russian based at Nick Bollettieri's Tennis Academy in Florida, qualified for the main draw of her first Grand Slam and beat 14th-seeded Austrian Barbara Paulus to reach the round of 16.

Graf found much to admire in the youngster's game, but took advantage of Kournikova's inexperience to win 6-2, 6-1 in 51 minutes.

"She has so many different shots," Graf said. "She's coming in, she's gutsy, she'll try."

"She's got a good physique, which is going to definitely work for her, good service motion, good backhand. She just needs to be a bit more patient. Obviously, experience is

missing, but she definitely has the shots."

Kournikova didn't seem the least daunted by Graf, and said she would welcome the chance to play her again.

"It was really great," she said. "I felt really comfortable. I would love to play her again and again."

Hingis, who turned pro in October of 1994, is nearly a year older than Kournikova and vastly more experienced. Sanchez Vicario said she didn't even think of the Swiss player's age in preparing for the match.

"I think she's a very talented player," Sanchez Vicario said.

"She has very good hands. If you play your game and move her around she has much more trouble. If you let her play, she can come back with the good shots."

That's exactly what Hingis did for most of the match.

"I had my best match today," said Hingis, rating the win above her victory over Graf at the Italian Open in May. "If you beat someone in a Grand Slam that's more important."

Hingis, who has shown herself to be a volatile player throughout her first two seasons on the WTA tour, lost her temper in the seventh game of the second set when chair umpire Jane Harvey overruled a call in Sanchez Vicario's favor.

After losing the game, Hingis threw her racquet

down in disgust, and lost the next three games and the set.

"Sometimes it makes you angry if you lose a game, especially if you lose it if they make a bad decision."

Hingis recovered her poise to take a 5-3 lead in the third set, and even dropping her serve to love in the ninth game didn't rattle her.

"On that side it was very sunny. She played a lot of topspin on both sides and put pressure on me," Hingis said. "I just decided to try to do something from the other side. In the women's game the service game is not always so important."

Hingis followed through on her plan with another service break as Sanchez Vicario ended the match with three errors in a row. Czech seventh-seed Jana Novotna and unseeded Austrian Judith Wiesner completed the quarterfinal line-up.

Novotna beat Slovakian Kifina Habsudova 6-2, 6-0 and will face Hingis. Wiesner beat Rita Grande of Italy 6-0, 6-3 and will meet Graf.

At least one Sanchez made it into the quarter-finals. Arantxa's elder brother Javier.

Javier Sanchez, ranked 67th in the world, beat 20th-ranked Frenchman Arnaud Boesoch 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/3). In the quarterfinals he'll meet second-seeded Michael Chang, who beat unseeded Jakob Hasek of Switzerland 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Healed Cone sparks Yanks' one-hitter of A's; Cards win, Reds overcome Braves

OAKLAND (R) — David Cone made a stunning return from a four-month absence caused by an aneurysm in his right shoulder, pitching seven hitless innings as the New York Yankees came within two outs of a combined no-hitter in a 5-0 one-hit victory over the Oakland Athletics on Monday.

Cone (5-1), who last pitched on May 2 and underwent surgery eight days later, was kept to a 100-pitch limit. Cone faced just two batters over the minimum in seven innings, striking out six and walking three with 85 pitches.

"It did surprise me," Cone said of the no-hit bid. "I was really struggling. I did not have a feel for anything. The first five pitches weren't even close. Towards the middle innings, I started to relax."

In Seattle, Mike Greenwell drove in a career-high nine runs, including two homers and the go-ahead tally with an RBI single in the 10th inning, as the resurgent Boston Red Sox overcame a 5-0 deficit to defeat the Mariners 9-8.

Greenwell broke the Major-League record for most runs driven in while driving in all his teams' runs.

The Red Sox, on a 22-7 run, closed within 1 1/2 games of the Baltimore Orioles and the Chicago White Sox in the AL wild-card race. Seattle is two games off the pace.

Heathcliff Slocumb (3-5) pitched 2 1/3 scoreless innings for the win.

In Milwaukee, Jose Valentin's two-run single scored John Jaha with the winning run as the Brewers rallied for two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning and a 7-6 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

Earlier in the inning Cleveland closer Jose Mesa (2-5) uncorked a pitch that sailed to the screen, allowing David Hulse to score the tying run.

In the top half, Albert Belle doubled in the top of the ninth with one out and scored on a single by Julio Franco.

Omar Vizquel and Jaha each homered for Cleveland, which let a 5-1 lead slip away.

In Chicago, Travis Fryman's three-run homer off Roberto

Hernandez (6-2) with two out in the top of the ninth lifted the Detroit Tigers to an 8-6 victory over the White Sox, who had their four-game winning streak snapped.

Mike Myers (11-5) retired the only two batters he faced in the eighth to post the win. Jose Lima pitched a perfect ninth for his third save.

Harold Baines hit his 21st homer for Chicago.

Phil Nevin and Mark Lewis homered for the Tigers.

In Toronto, Tim Lincecum pitched a four-hitter for his first shutout in three years and Jon Nunnally homered in the fourth inning as the Kansas City Royals beat Blue Jays 2-0.

In Texas, Chuck Knoblauch led off the game with a homer for the second time in as many days and Matt Walbeck added two hits and two RBIs as the Minnesota Twins beat the Rangers 6-4.

At California, Chris Hoiles and Brady Anderson each homered and drove in three runs and Mike Mussina pitched seven innings to become the second 18-game winner in the league as the Baltimore Orioles held off the Angels 12-8.

Cards come from four down to beat Astros

Willie McGee singled home Ozzie Smith with two out in the bottom of the 10th inning as the St. Louis Cardinals rallied from a four-run deficit on Monday to defeat Houston 8-7 and move within a half-game of the first-place Astros in the NL Central.

"It was just a hellacious ballgame on both sides," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "It just makes the race tighter and makes it more fun for all of us."

Alan Benes (13-8) faced two batters, walking one and striking out one in his first major-league relief appearance.

Houston jumped on starter Donovan Osborne in the first. Jeff Bagwell and Sean Berry delivered RBI doubles and Mouton singled home a run to make it 3-0.

The Cards scored in the bottom half on McGee's RBI single and tied it in the second on Osborne's RBI double and

an RBI ground out by Smith, who drove in three runs and scored four.

The Astros chased Osborne with a four-run fourth. Sean Berry led off with his 14th homer. Ricky Gutierrez delivered an RBI single and Bagwell smacked a two-run double.

St. Louis answered in the bottom of the inning on Smith's two-run homer, just his fifth career blast from the left side of the plate, and McGee's RBI single in the sixth.

In Philadelphia, Fernando Valenzuela allowed six hits over seven shutout innings for his seventh straight win and Wally Joyner drove in three runs as the San Diego Padres beat the Phillies 5-1 and maintained their one-game lead over the second-place Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West.

Valenzuela (12-7) walked two and struck out two as he improved 7-0 with a 2.52 era in his last nine starts.

The Padres struck for three runs in the first inning against starter Rich Hunter (2-5) who gave up a two-run single to Joyner and a sacrifice fly to John Flaherty. Hunter gave up five runs and six hits over three innings.

In New York, Todd Hollandsworth's go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh and Pedro Astacio's strong pitching lifted Los Angeles over the Mets 8-5 maintained the Dodgers' half-game lead over the Montreal Expos in the NL Wild-card race.

L.A.'s Eric Karros added a two-run homer in the eighth. Astacio (9-7) won his fifth straight game, allowing three runs, six hits and four walks in six innings.

Todd Worrell pitched a scoreless ninth for his franchise-record 38th save.

Todd Hundley hit his 39th homer for the Mets, tying a club record hit by Darryl Strawberry in 1987 and 1988.

In Montreal, F.P. Santangelo's sacrifice fly and Lenny Webster's RBI single in the bottom of the 11th inning rallied the Expos to a 4-3 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

The Giants had taken the lead in the top of the inning

when Marvin Bernard hit a grounder up the middle that Mike Lansing fielded behind second base and threw over the head of first baseman Dave McCarty, allowing Jacob Cruz to score.

Barry Bonds hit his 36th homer for the Giants, whose closer Rod Beck fell to 0-8.

Mark Grudzielanek went 4-for-5 for Montreal and Barry Manuel (3-1) earned the win in relief.

In Pittsburgh, Dante Bichette homered and drove in four runs and Kevin Ritz allowed three runs in seven innings and also hit his first career homer as the Colorado Rockies stopped their four-game losing skid, beating the Pirates 8-3.

Vinny Castilla, Ritz and Walt Weiss hit solo homers in the third, and Bichette's three-run homer in the eighth turned a 5-3 lead into a five-run game.

Ritz (14-10) allowed two earned runs and five hits with three walks and three strikeouts.

Esteban Loaiza (0-2) was touched for four runs and five hits with a walk and three strikeouts in five innings.

At Florida, Marc Valdes allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings for his first Major-League win and the surging Marlins used a two-run error by Jose Hernandez in the fourth inning for a 4-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Alex Arias had three hits and drove in a run for the Marlins, who have won nine of their last ten games.

Valdes (1-2) gave up four hits and three walks without a strikeout before Robb Nen recorded his 30th save.

Chicago starter Steve Trachsel (11-8) allowed four runs — two earned — and eight hits in six innings and fell to 3-7 lifetime against Florida.

In Cincinnati, Joe Oliver hit a two-run homer and Curtis Goodwin dropped a key bunt-single to snap a tie as the Reds overcame a five-run deficit to defeat the Atlanta Braves 7-6.

Oliver's homer, in the fifth inning, tied the game at 5-5. In the seventh, the Reds loaded the bases when Goodwin bunted and Braves reliever Greg McMichael (5-3) threw wildly to first, allowing Lenny Harris and Oliver to score.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144	CINEMA TEL: 699238	CINEMA TEL: 677420	Ammoun Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD		
	JADE	The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zaki....in Naser 56 (Arabic)	CONCORD "1" Arnold Schwarzenegger & Vanessa Williams ...in ERASER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" MONKEY TROUBLE Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government	PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155-640155
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00		Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tabeishat play starts 8:30 p.m	

Career set to end for Kanu

MILAN (AFP) — Heart specialists were set to decide the footballing future of Inter Milan's Nwankwo Kanu on Tuesday after a routine check revealed the Nigerian Olympic hero is ill.

Kanu, who signed from Ajax in July, just days before guiding Nigeria to victory in their Olympic campaign in Atlanta, has a "weak aorta valve" and has been ordered to stop playing.

The discovery was made last week when Kanu, who only turned 20 on August 1, underwent tests at a sports clinic here.

Heart specialist Bruno Caru, acting as an advisor to Inter, said: "It means an operation to replace the valve. The heart condition is not as serious as it could be, but it's serious enough to prevent him playing."

"It's regrettable when it concerns an athlete of world standing, especially one that is very young, but the man is more important than the footballer."

As for the operation, Caru added that now the Nigerian has stopped playing: "As it stands, Kanu could have the operation

in three years' time, let's say for argument's sake.

"But if he wants to continue his sporting activity, it would have to be much sooner."

Caru is one of a group of experts who will meet to discuss Kanu's case and the possible options here on Tuesday.

Kanu was devastated by the news.

"I knew nothing about it. In all these years, nobody had said anything about it," he said. "What can I do now?"

The test results are set to spark a legal battle between Inter and Ajax as the Italian club paid two million dollars for the striker.

Kanu said: "I'm amazed that Kanu won the Olympic title and played for Ajax for years without a doctor ever making him undergo a chest X-Ray and an ultrasound cardiogram. I refuse to believe he's never had such a test."

And he stressed: "The illness certainly dates back some considerable time. I categorically exclude any idea that Kanu was healthy three months ago.

He's been ill for years."

Ajax have gone on the defensive. Club treasurer Arie Van Os, who handles transfer dealings, said: "We're surprised. Our checks on his physical condition have always been normal, as have those of the insurance companies who insure the players."

"When speculation emerged of a move to Inter, we offered him a contract until 2001 in the hope of keeping him."

Kanu came to Ajax's attention in October 1993, when the tall, thin striker helped Nigeria win the world under-17 championship.

The Dutch snapped him up from Iwuanyanwu, and gave him his first division debut five months later.

He won the Dutch League title twice with Ajax and the European Cup in 1995.

Kanu, whose move to Inter included the Italian club signing his 17-year-old brother Christopher, was a star of the Olympic soccer tournament. His two goals in five minutes knocked Brazil out of the semifinals.

Sheffield Wednesday go five points clear

SHEFFIELD (R) — Sheffield Wednesday maintained their 100 per cent record and went five points clear at the top of the English Premier League Monday by beating newly-promoted Leicester City 2-1.

Wednesday, who escaped relegation on the final day of last season, have now made their best start in 65 years, winning their first four matches and scoring twice in every game.

Ritchie Humphreys set the Yorkshire side on their way in the 25th minute with his third goal of the season.

Collecting a loose ball on the halfway line, the 18-year-old apprentice striker cut through the heart of the Leicester defence, pulled the ball on to his left foot, and coolly lobbed goalkeeper Kasey Keller from the edge of the area.

Three minutes later an equally spectacular goal brought Leicester level.

Steve Claridge, who sealed his side's promotion to the premier league with a last-minute extra-time goal in a play-off at Wembley in May, surged past former England defender des Walker and blasted the ball into the top left-hand corner of Kevin Pressman's goal from 25 metres.

Andy Booth, who joined Wednesday for 2.65 million pounds (\$4.1 million) from first division Huddersfield in the close season, scored their winner six minutes into the second half, latching on to a long pass from defence and slotting the ball under Keller.

Wednesday, whose previous victims were Leeds, League cup holders Aston Villa, and, last, season's championship runners-up Newcastle, lead the table by five points from Chelsea on seven points, with Arsenal and Villa a further point back.



Chicago Bears' safety Marty Carter (right) brings down Dallas Cowboys' Kevin Williams (left) in second quarter action at Chicago's Soldier Field (Reuters photo)

Emmitt Smith hurt as Cowboys open with loss to Bears

CHICAGO (R) — The Chicago Bears crushed the defending Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys 22-6 on Monday night, but the Cowboys had much greater concerns than the game's final score.

Pro bowl running back Emmitt Smith was carted off the field at Chicago after suffering an apparent head or neck injury with 3:41 remaining.

Smith, the Super Bowl 28 most valuable player, dove into the line of scrimmage on a play-action fake and reportedly landed on his head. Smith stayed on the field for several minutes while physicians and paramedics immobilised his head and neck.

A team official told television reporters that Smith felt a sharp pain through his back, though he was able to move all of his extremities.

Bears linebacker and ex-teammate Vinson Smith was on the field for the play and remained close to Smith while he was receiving attention. "I was very sad," said Vinson. "I stood there and waited until I knew he was all right. When he was speaking and when he was moving everything... Emmitt is a very important person to me, he's a good friend. I hate to see good friends get hurt, but he's OK, and he let me know that."

Smith finished with 70 yards on 18 carries. Accompanied by Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones, Smith was taken by ambulance to Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where he will be held overnight for observation.

"Tonight, we got beat by a good team," Smith said in a

statement issued by the team. "I don't see this loss as the end of the season."

But it was a humbling loss. Linebacker Bryan Cox recovered a fumble in the end zone and Carlos Huerta kicked three field goals for the bears.

Huerta booted field goals of 42 and 34 yards in a 2:08 span in the fourth quarter to extend Chicago's lead to 16-3 with 9:48 remaining.

On the ensuing possession, Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman was hit by cornerback Kevin Miniefield as he tried to throw and the ball rolled into the end zone, where Cox, an off-season free-agent acquisition, pounced on it to give Chicago a 22-3 lead with 8:47 left.

The Bears took the lead for good when wide receiver Curtis Conway hooked up with Raymont Harris on a 33-yard TD pass.

Conway took a handoff from Eric Kramer and threw a pass down the left sideline to Harris, who came back to the underthrown ball, caught it and fell into the end zone for 33-yard scoring play with 3:31 left in the half.

Deion Sanders saw extensive action playing both wide receiver and cornerback for the Cowboys. He was on the field for 106 plays, catching nine passes for 87 yards. Sanders fumbled while trying for extra yards on one reception in the fourth quarter, setting up Huerta's third field goal.

Chris Boniol kicked two field goals for Dallas. The Cowboys already are without suspended wide receiver Michael Irvin and injured tight end Jay Novacek.

Coventry duo in double trouble

LONDON (AFP) — Ron Atkinson and Gordon Strachan could be handed touchline bans after being slapped with disrepute charges Tuesday following their bust-up with a referee at a reserve match last week.

And it could be double trouble for the Coventry managerial duo after another referee reported them to the Football Association following their touchline protests at Chelsea recently.

They could now face touchline bans and/or heavy fines if they are found guilty. Former Scottish international Strachan, Atkinson's assistant, brought the reserve game against West Brom to a halt for 15 minutes when he refused to leave the pitch after being sent off.

Atkinson's charge relates to remarks he made to the same official in the dressing-room area after the match.

The FA have also asked them to give their version of events at Stamford Bridge on August 24, when Coventry lost 2-0.

The pair were involved in angry touchline scenes over Chelsea's first goal, scored by Frank Leboeuf after Dan Petrescu was alleged to have handled.

FIFA aims to fight child labour

ZURICH (AFP) — FIFA, football's international governing body, announced plans Tuesday that it hopes will stop child labour being used in the production of footballs.

FIFA and representatives of international trade unions have agreed on the text of a code of labour practice for footballs carrying the FIFA logo in an effort to eliminate child labour and other exploitative practices.

The code will be presented to the world federation of the sporting goods industry, which will hold a special conference on child labour in London in November.

FIFA and the unions reached agreement that effective independent monitoring is essential to prevent abuses, and also discussed the introduction of alternative education and training for young workers displaced by the implementation of the code.

An estimated 80 per cent of the world's footballs are made in Pakistan.

Smiles and kisses replace World Cup doom and gloom for England

LONDON (AP) — After England's last World Cup performance failed to get the team to the finals, the headlines and pictures reflected doom and gloom. After Sunday's 3-0 victory in Moldova it was all smiles and even kisses.

Paul Gascoigne, scorer of England's second goal in Kishinev, was pictured planting a playful kiss on the cheek of his team captain, Alan Shearer, scorer of the third.

There were no such scenes after England's previous World Cup game in November of 1993, even though the team had gained a 7-1 victory at San Marino.

It wasn't enough to get them to the World Cup in 1994 and two years of misery, debate and soul-searching followed.

Now an uplifting performance in reaching the last four of the European Championship has been followed by a successful first game under new coach Glenn Hoddle.

"For me the balance was between getting the points on board and getting to know the players," Hoddle said. "But we had to win the game,

which is what we did."

The result and the performance prompted bookmakers William Hill to cut England's odds to win the World Cup from 16-1 to 14-1. Defending titlist Brazil remains 5-1 favourite with host France and European champion Germany at 7-1.

With tougher group 2 games against Italy, Poland and Georgia to come and only the group winner certain to qualify, Hoddle knows a lot more hard work lies ahead. But England is a far more imaginative and confident team compared with the squad that laboured under Graham Taylor and failed to qualify for 1994.

"What did please me was that we had a cutting edge in the last third of the pitch. We got in six or seven times and looked like scoring on every one of them," Hoddle said. "That was a major bonus for me."

Shearer knows that there will be improvements, but he was happy with the result.

"If you'd said to us before we flew out that we'd win 3-0 we'd have

taken it," said the striker, who transferred to Newcastle from Blackburn a month ago for a world record 15 million pounds (\$23.35 million). "Yes, we could've done better, but I think we're all pleased with the three points."

"It took a while for us to get into the swing of things, but once we got the goals that settled us down and we controlled it from then on."

"It was a great feeling to captain my country, and even better to score a goal and lead the team to victory in the manager's first game," Shearer said.

"That was very important. It would've been very easy for us to come here, sit back and not get our attitude right. But it was right, we all got wired-in, got stuck-in, and now we're looking forward to the next one."

England's next game is at home to Poland Oct 9 after Italy has visited Moldova. The top games in the group, between England and Italy, aren't until February and October of next year.



Dallas Cowboys' Broderick Thomas (right) brings down Chicago Bears' running back Robert Green (left) during fourth quarter action, September 2, at Chicago's Soldier Field. Chicago won the game, 22-6 (Reuters photo)

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Pringle to join Benfica

HELSINGBORG, Sweden (AFP) — Swedish first division club Helsingborg said Tuesday that it has reached agreement to transfer Swedish international Martin Pringle to leading Portuguese club Benfica.

Pringle, 25, will sign a four-year contract with Benfica after passing a medical examination, but will not move to Sweden until after his club's first-round UEFA Cup matches against Aston Villa of England on September 10 and 24.

Pringle joins fellow Swedish international Jonas Thern and Stefan Schwarz at Benfica, who are managed by another Swede, Sven-Goran Eriksson.

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Crown Prince hopes Iraqis' suffering will end, they will be able to contribute to science and progress in Arab World

Science Week ends with focus on utilisation of resources

By Marian Nimry
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday expressed hope that the Iraqi people will ultimately overcome the nightmare of the suffering they have had to endure as a result of the Gulf war.

Addressing a scientific conference that ended here, Prince Hassan said he hoped that once Iraq's plight was over Iraq's scientists, both in the country and abroad, will contribute to its rebuilding process.

The Crown Prince, who called on participants to observe a one-minute silence for the suffering and fallen Iraqis, was speaking at the fourth annual Jordanian Science Week hosted by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) under the title "Man and the Earth."

In a speech to a crowd of

more than 500 attendants, Prince Hassan spoke of the importance of this week since "the discussions and recommendations have led to the conviction that the scientific and technological societies are able to integrate with associations from the private and public sectors, and with officials, and gives the feeling that decision-making will be affected by what has been achieved this week."

The week, which was convened in two stages, included 124 researchers and experts and more than 650 participants. The first three days starting on Aug. 27 were held at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid under the title "Human Resources — Towards Balance." The second stage was held from Aug. 31 — Sep. 3 at the Royal Cultural Centre under the title "Earth Resources Towards Integration."

The main features for an executive plan were sum-

marised by Hani Mulki, secretary general of the council. In the area of human resources, participants agreed that in light of the research and discussions "it is necessary to set a national strategy of human resource development, which is comprehensive," Dr. Mulki said.

"Participants also emphasised the importance of the cooperation of both the public and private sectors, the Armed Forces, the scientific centres and the universities in the preparation and execution of a set strategy."

In the area of earth resources, participants agreed, Dr. Mulki said, that "it is clear that technology is the basis for earth resource development."

The attendees gave suggestions and questioned a panel of government ministers made up of Hashem Dabbas, minister of energy and mineral resources, Mustafa Sheikhat, minister of agriculture, Marwan Awad, minister of finance, and Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh, minister of labour, about issues pertaining to natural resources such as the new law of the division of agricultural land and its participation in the devastation of agriculture in Jordan.

In this closing session, some of the 11 projects financed by the HCST over the implementation period 1996-2000 were discussed. Among them is a project for the development and manufacture of a certain type of solar cells. The project was carried out in order to develop human resources in the field of semi-conductive physics and cheap renewable energy.

Next year's science week will be held in Aug. 4, 1997. Prince Hassan said it will be "geared towards the enhancement of productivity, and the achievement of quality products, and services."



KEEPING WATCH OVER IRAQ: A warplane returns to Incirlik air base, near Turkey's Mediterranean city of Adana, on Tuesday, after patrolling in the allied forces no-fly zone over northern Iraq. Southern Iraq was hit by the cruise missiles launched by the U.S. forces in the Gulf (see page one) (Reuters photo)

Arafat-Netanyahu meeting remains an elusive objective

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Marathon efforts to arrange a first meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat bogged down Tuesday amid Palestinian charges that the Israelis were reneging at the last minute on key understandings.

Saeb Erakat, leader of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, said that only indirect contacts were continuing between the two sides, marking a clear step back following two weeks of intensive direct negotiations.

"There has been no direct meeting today, contacts are going on only through the Norwegians," he said, referring to the U.N. envoy in Gaza, Terje Larsen, and his diplomat wife, Mona Juul.

Mr. Erakat accused Mr. Netanyahu of backing away Tuesday from earlier "understandings" reached between himself and Mr. Dore Gold, the Israeli leader's main foreign policy adviser.

The understandings, worked out in two weeks of intensive talks mediated by Mr. Larsen and Mr. Juul at their Tel Aviv home, were to form the basis for a Netanyahu-Arafat summit and the subsequent resumption of full negotiations on implementing the 1995 Palestinian self-rule accord.

Officials said they included a formula reaffirming Israel's commitment to withdraw from most of the West Bank city

of Hebron, a pledge to let more Palestinian laborers work in Israel, the release of Palestinian women held in Israeli jails and authorization to open a Palestinian airport in Gaza.

"Gold and I agreed on all this yesterday and we informed our leadership," Mr. Erakat said.

But in a later meeting Monday night in Gaza city, another Netanyahu adviser, Yitzhak Molkho, told Arafat that "Dore Gold was not authorised to make these agreements," he said.

"Arafat got angry and protested over Molkho's attitude" and the meeting broke off, he said.

"We are telling the Israeli government that it must announce its commitment to all agreements that have been signed and then to implement them," Mr. Erakat said after a day of indirect exchanges with Gold.

Mr. Erakat said this Israeli step was "a must" before any Netanyahu-Arafat summit could take place.

Palestinian sources described the differences remaining between the two sides on Tuesday as multiple, but they stressed that the key stumbling block was Israel's demand to renegotiate details of its delayed withdrawal from Hebron.

Mr. Netanyahu wants the Hebron deal altered to boost security for a small group of Jewish settlers living in the city of 120,000, but Palestinian officials saw this as a bid to under-

mine the entire 1995 interim accord.

"If reopen the Hebron talks, everything will fall apart," said one official.

He and other PLO officials accused the Israelis of refusing to include the word "implementation" in a joint communiqué reaffirming their commitment to the 1993 Oslo autonomy accord.

Palestinians say Mr. Netanyahu is willing to commit himself to the principle of the autonomy accords but not to their implementation at this stage.

"The Israelis are still delaying because they refuse to commit themselves to implementing agreements either verbally or in writing," Mr. Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Rdaneh said.

Israeli Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh said the sides were making progress towards an agreement paving the way for a Netanyahu-Arafat meeting and the resumption of full-fledged peace negotiations.

But neither he nor Mr. Netanyahu would commit to a date.

"I'm going to disappoint you by repeating what I've said time and time again," Mr. Netanyahu told reporters.

"The meeting between Mr. Arafat and myself is not dependent on a calendar but on developments. I hope those developments will proceed productively so that we can have a productive meeting," he said.

Palestinian surrenders after hijacking Bulgarian airliner

OSLO (AFP) — The hijacking of a Bulgarian plane with eight crew members on board to Oslo by a lone Palestinian ended peacefully on Tuesday when the man surrendered to police and requested political asylum in Norway.

The hijacker, who is believed to be 35-year-old Nadir Abdullah but whose name has not been confirmed, surrendered six and a half hours after the

ordeal began just before the plane was to land in Varna in northeastern Bulgaria, some 2,300 kilometers earlier.

The Palestinian surrendered at 8:47 p.m. (1847 gmt), 44 minutes after the Tupolev 154 landed at the Gardermoen airport some 40 kilometers north of Oslo. Late Tuesday evening, he was being interrogated at police headquarters in Lillestrom, north of Oslo.

Concern mounts ahead of landmark Bosnia election

SARJEVO (AFP) — Concern mounted for Bosnia's general elections Tuesday, as officials pointed to a growing catalogue of racially-motivated expulsions and rights abuses 11 days before general elections designed to save the country's multi-ethnic character.

Officials reported Bosnian Serbs were targeting Muslim homes in the flashpoint northern town of Brcko in a campaign to chase non-Serbs from the strategic area, control of which is to be decided by international arbitration.

The U.N. refugee agency UNHCR said it had evacuated 31 Muslims to Croatia after angry Serb mobs had persistently refused to allow

them back to their homes in Banja Luka, a northern Serb stronghold.

European Union (EU) police in the tense southern city of Mostar meanwhile said Croat extremists had expelled a muslim family and a muslim-Croat couple from their homes in western Mostar, controlled by hardline Croat nationalists opposed to sharing the city with Muslims.

In Bern, Flavio Comi, head of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) which is supervising Bosnia's landmark Sept. 14 polls, condemned the wave of incidents.

Israel asks Germany not to aid Iran nuclear plans

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has called on his visiting German counterpart to join international efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear arms or other weapons of mass destruction.

"I asked Mr. (Volker) Ruehe to do everything possible to prevent countries like Iran from obtaining a nuclear capacity or other arms of mass destruction," Mr. Mordechai said late Monday following talks with the German official.

Mr. Mordechai also requested German help in efforts to keep Iran from obtaining long-range missiles and in the fight against regional terrorism, which Israel says is in large part directed by the Islamic leadership in Tehran.

Drawing a link between Iran's alleged nuclear ambitions and terrorist links, Mr. Mordechai said it was essential that the world not wait for disaster to happen before acting.

"We remember the catastrophe that took place in Germany during the World War II," he said. According to Israeli military experts, Iran's nuclear weapons pro-

gramme could produce atomic warheads within the next four years.

Mr. Ruehe arrived in Israel Monday for two days of talks due to focus mainly on terrorism and efforts to trace missing Israeli soldiers.

At an official dinner Monday night, Mr. Ruehe said Germany was actively seeking to locate Ron Arad, an Israeli airman shot down over Lebanon in 1986 and who Israeli officials believe is being held by Iran or Iranian-backed groups.

In July, Israel received the remains of two of its missing soldiers as part of a German-mediated exchange of bodies and prisoners with Hizbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

Defence ministry officials said Mr. Ruehe and Mr. Mordechai also discussed three submarines for the Israeli navy and which will be delivered by the turn of the century.

Mr. Ruehe was due to meet Tuesday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Ezer Weizman and opposition leader Shimon Peres.

He was also to visit the Yad Vashem memorial.

Christopher to press diplomacy with Europeans over strike against Iraq

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States prepared Tuesday to match its military action in Iraq with a diplomatic offensive in Europe that was to build up agreement with the allies around how to deal with Baghdad.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was to leave early Wednesday for talks in London, Paris and Bonn that officials here acknowledged would lay bare differences over Iraq in the wake of its foray into Kurdish areas in the north.

Britain and Germany supported the United States for carrying out cruise missile attacks earlier on Iraqi targets in retaliation for Baghdad's seizure of the main Kurdish city of Erbil.

But France and Russia refused to applaud the move. French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette voiced support for the territorial integrity of Iraq and his Russian counterpart Yevgeny Primakov slammed the U.S. military strike as an electoral ploy meant to bolster President Bill Clinton's standing (see

page one). In Washington, U.S. officials took French and Russian reactions in stride and said that their positions had been outlined in diplomatic exchanges preceding the operation.

"We're just going to agree to disagree," an administration official said. The official, speaking on condition he not be named, said the United States had taken a "leadership position" and that Mr. Christopher will not seek to press the allies into towing the U.S. line.

"The objective is not to forge a new action plan," he said. "We are not going to require complete agreement as we go forward."

But the discussions were expected to create a consensus that would allow the United States to have a free hand in extending the no-fly zone and temporarily delay the implementation of the U.N. oil-for-food deal.

In his address following the Iraqi attack, President Bill Clinton said it was the responsibility of the United States to take the lead on Iraq and indicated that

French reluctance would not alter Washington's course.

"I've talked to quite a large number of our allies and I am satisfied with their response," Mr. Clinton said.

"I believe that we will be able to go forward with this mission and I think others feel that at this time there may be, for their own domestic purposes, some limits on how much they can do," he said.

Secretary of Defence William Perry also asserted the U.S. view that the military operation in Iraq was to a large extent a one-man show.

"We expect most of our allies to be supportive," Mr. Perry said. "And most importantly, I would point out, we did not need their participation in this strike."

The United States, France and Britain joined forces to push back Iraqi troops from Kuwait during the 1991 Gulf war but the coalition has been tested on the issue of international sanctions against Iraq.

For months, Washington balked at a deal at the United Nations that would

have allowed Iraq to sell oil to buy food, medicine and humanitarian supplies.

An agreement was reached after Washington received assurances that a sufficient number of monitors would be in place to verify that oil revenues are not diverted from the purpose of paying for humanitarian supplies, according to U.S. officials.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali on Sunday, however, announced the plan to allow Iraqi oil sales would be delayed as fighting in northern Iraq made it impossible for humanitarian aid monitors to be dispatched there.

France, Britain and the United States have also jointly enforced two no-fly zones over Kurdish areas in northern Iraq and over opponents of Saddam Hussein who live in the south.

Mr. Perry said Tuesday he expected France to continue its role in enforcing the flight ban on Iraqi aircraft after announcing that the no-fly zone in the south would be expanded to Baghdad's doorstep.

U.S. says Iraqi oil deal now off 'for some time'

Gnehm hints accord may be renegotiated

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Iraq will not be allowed to export oil for "some time" as a result of its attack against Iraqi Kurds, the U.S. State Department said on Tuesday.

"It's going to be some time before we can get back to any consideration of that programme," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said in reference to a U.N. plan to let Iraq sell some oil to raise hard currency for food and medical supplies. The United Nations postponed that plan in light of Baghdad's military action against Iraqi Kurds.

Mr. Burns said the Iraqi attack on the Kurds, which drew retaliatory cruise missile strikes against Iraqi military installations, had made it "clearly impossible ... to continue with that (oil export) programme at the present time."

He declined to be more specific on the time frame. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on Sunday

postponed implementation of the oil-for-food plan, expected later this month. He said he could not send U.N. staff to monitor it because he feared for their safety.

Edward Gnehm, U.S. envoy to the United Nations, told reporters that he thought implementation of the oil sales plan could now take months. Mr. Gnehm said the United States in any case wanted changes in the plan.

The United Nations still plans to go forward with the deal despite delaying its implementation. The U.N. spokeswoman said here Tuesday, speaking at a news briefing, spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said that U.N. officials here were "going ahead with preparations, but it is obvious that implementation will have to be postponed until things calm down" in Iraq.

Referring to the latest U.S. objections to the deal, she conceded that some "technicalities" might have to be adjusted in the light of Baghdad's

offensive into Kurdish-dominated northern Iraq which triggered U.S. missile strikes on the south on Tuesday.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Tuesday that the oil-for-food deal "cannot go forward" until the United States is sure humanitarian supplies can reach Kurds in northern Iraq. Ms. Foa was asked to comment on a statement by Mr. Gnehm, who hinted Tuesday that the deal might have to be renegotiated as the situation on the ground now had changed since the arrangement was signed in May. Mr. Gnehm is the number two at the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

Ms. Foa replied: "When the dust settles, we'll be able to look at the technicalities and see if there are any changes that need to be made."

The oil-for-food deal provides for Baghdad to export \$2 billion worth of oil every six months in return for humanitarian supplies, under tight U.N. scrutiny.



Japan's Princess Nori to see British queen

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Princess Nori, daughter of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, will meet Britain's queen during a European tour starting later this month, government officials said Tuesday. The 27-year-old princess will leave Tokyo on Sept. 28, and arrive in Bulgaria on Sept. 30 after a brief stopover in Frankfurt, Germany, according to a schedule released by the Imperial Household Agency. She will also visit the Czech Republic. Before returning home on Oct. 10, she will stop over in London when she will meet with Queen Elizabeth II. In the Bulgarian capital of Sofia, she will call on president Zhelyu Zhelev and attend a ceremony related to Japanese culture, the agency said. The princess will arrive in the Czech Republic on Oct. 3, becoming the first member of Japan's imperial family to visit that country and will meet President Vaclav Havel. The upcoming trip will mark Princess Nori's second official visit abroad, following a trip to Brazil in November last year.

Brazilians sing praise of miracle cure — marijuana

BRASILIA (R) — A remarkable herb used as a cure-all by residents of a small town in northern Brazil has turned out to be marijuana. A television station said that for years, people in Cruzeta, Rio Grande do Norte state, swore by the properties of what they called "liamba." But then a police officer grew suspicious about the true identity of the spindly, green weed and ordered tests. Globo said, "If you've got a wheezing throat, it'll put you right straight away," said Maria Medeiros, recommending a potion made from her backyard marijuana for toothache and head pains. Miguel Matias said he took a tea made from the plant as a pick-me-up. "I've already had two and I'm going to have another three, to keep me young," said the pensioner. A local judge took a dim view of the use of the herb, which is being investigated by police. "The residents could be arrested," Sergio Dantas warned Globo.

Oasis singer denies rumours of breakup

CHICAGO (R) — An unrepentant and abusive Liam Gallagher arrived in Chicago Thursday to rejoin his touring bandmates in Oasis, denying speculation that he was thinking of leaving the hugely successful British rock group. Gallagher, the group's lead singer, swore at reporters who asked why he was late in joining the three-week tour, which began in Chicago with his brother Noel filling in. Many fans asked for refunds when Liam failed to show up. He said he was late because he had been suffering from a sore throat and was busy house-hunting. Gallagher skipped the band's departure from London's Heathrow Airport, saying he had "problems at home." The band also performed without him on Aug. 23 on an Unplugged show from London's Royal Festival Hall broadcast on Music Television (MTV). Upon arriving in Chicago, Gallagher swore repeatedly when asked if his absence was an insult to fans, and said his priority was himself, not his fans nor anyone else. The band was scheduled to perform in Auburn Hills, Michigan, outside Detroit Friday. The 15,000-seat venue, The Palace, was not sold out, but a promoter said a walk-up crowd could fill the remaining seats. The notorious Gallagher brothers from Manchester have stormed music charts worldwide with a string of electrifying hits including Wonderwall, Don't Look Back in Anger and (What's the Story) Morning Glory?.